

THE JOURNAL

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Friday, February 15, 2002

Inside El Cerrito looks at revisions to its General Plan housing element [A10]

Sports Strong run by El Cerrito girls soccer comes to an end in playoffs [C1]


EVAN GIDDINGS, 7, strategically moves his bishop into striking position during the weekly drop in chess club at the Albany Public Library Tuesday evening. The club starts at 6 pm with an hour of discussion and tips for better chess playing, followed an hour of gaming with Senior Master David Pruess on hand to answer further questions.

Playing those mind games

Free workshops at the Albany Library draw young people into the challenges and strategy of chess

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — David Pruess was busy Tuesday night at Albany Library's chess workshop to keep the attention of about 20 young boys as they fidgeted and argued amongst themselves. He oc-

asionally raised his voice and told them they were being too loud. Mostly, though, he was teaching them how to win.

His advice? Keep the king protected by surrounding it with other pieces, he said. Keep as many pieces as you can — at the end of the game, an extra pawn might not be enough to get a checkmate. Don't be greedy — think about winning and not just gobbling your opponent's material.

Some youngsters were getting anxious.

"How do you win?" asked one boy.

"We're getting there," responded the dead-pan Pruess, who quickly went on to show the virtues of placing the white bishop in the G-2 square.

Pruess teaches a free chess workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. He teaches the fundamentals of the game but also keeps things interesting for the advanced players.

"I'm trying to give them some

ideas to think about to keep them stimulated, and everyone will get something out of it," he said.

The workshop began Tuesday night with Pruess moving pieces around on an oversized board pasted up on the wall in front of the class in the Edith Stone Room in the Albany Library.

He explained the importance of keeping as many pieces as possible, showing different moves on the board and explaining their pos-

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3 sites make the cut for new civic center

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The City Council has narrowed its search to three sites for a new civic center and one will be chosen soon, possibly at its Feb. 19 council meeting, said Jill Keimach, community development director.

City officials are envisioning a civic center that would include a city hall and administrative offices, a new library, police and fire headquarters, and a senior center.

Current city offices sit in trailers at San Pablo and Manila avenues. The old offices were torn down in 1987 because of seismic concerns.

"We've been in these trailers for 15 years and they have ter-

mite damage, they're rotting because of poor drainage, and they're falling apart right now," said Keimach.

The three sites under consideration are the current City Hall site at San Pablo Avenue and Manila avenues; the El Cerrito Lumber Yard site at San Pablo Avenue and Schmidt Lane; and the former Albertson's site at San Pablo Avenue and Portola Drive.

"I think all three (alternatives) could potentially work," said City Manager Scott Hanin. "We're very early on and it's going to require a lot more analysis."

After a site is chosen, the council will look at detailed architectural plans and possible

See CITY HALL, Page A10

Developer again eyes Del Norte BART site

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — An 8-acre site adjacent to the Del Norte BART station is being planned for development again, six years after a first effort fizzled.

Residents gave their input on the planned development at the first of three community workshops held Saturday, Feb. 9 and Wednesday, Feb. 13.

"The process we're going through will provide us as the developer significant input into what the residents want to see," said Charlie Owel, president of CFC Corporation, the developer. "The first workshop session was extremely well attended, we had 50 people there."

The development will likely

have housing, retail and office space, said Owel, adding that city leaders want to see more office and retail components to pump money into city coffers. And residents want to see more connected green-space areas.

The 8.4-acre site proposed for development is currently comprised of parking lots and adjacent property bounded by San Pablo Avenue, Key Boulevard, Hill Street and Knott Avenue.

"People want to see mixed-use," said Owel. "There is a divergence of whether to have offices or not, but I think going back to historic analysis and the 1999 general plan, mixed-use is going to include a combination of

See DEL NORTE, Page A10

Black History Month event spotlights celebration, education

By Paula King
STAFF WRITER

The main character in Fred Johnson's original play "Brother Dap" is a cool, inner-city adolescent who knows nothing about African-American heritage. Unfortunately, Jackson knows too many young people to say they are just like Dap. Through another character called The Lone Slave, Dap is introduced to an array of prominent African-Americans from the past and their legacy today.

"I wanted to highlight the many contributions they made to our birth, development and

growth of this nation," Jackson said.

The Richmond resident will perform selections from his play during Celebrating Culture & Community's African-American History Month event, "Carrying the Torch from Generation to Generation."

The event on Sunday will feature poetry, gospel music, hip-hop dancing, Billie Holiday songs and excerpts from Jackson's play.

For this special day, Jackson wanted to highlight prominent individuals such as Benjamin Montgomery, the slave of Confederate President Jefferson

Davis; Montgomery went on to design an innovative propeller for steamboats, which allowed them to navigate through rough waters.

He also will note that one of the first major African-American inventors was Lewis Howard Latimer, who improved Thomas Edison's prototypical light bulb by creating a carbon-filament version.

In an excerpt from the play, Dap realizes that he directly benefited from the invention of the incubator by Granville T. Woods, since he was born prematurely.

As a recipient of open-heart

surgery, Dap's mother lived because of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, who pioneered the surgery in 1893.

"It allows children to find out that many things invented by African-Americans are used in hospitals today," said Jackson. "The goal is to educate people."

The Lone Slave refers to these great men as his children and friends. The drama also features 13 songs including "Main Master," which will be performed by Jackson. The tune explores the love dichotomy between God as the central master and the slave master here on Earth.

To illustrate the relationship between African-Americans and native Americans, Jackson will also characterize James P. Beckwourth, also known as Chief Bloody Arm. This rugged individualist and trail blazer explored the West with the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, until he was captured by the Crow Indians and became the war chief of many battles and a master storyteller.

Barbara Davis of St. Peter's CME Church Choir believes this event will help children to honor their freedoms, never taking them for granted.

EVENT

What: "Carrying the Torch from Generation to Generation."

When: 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday

Where: El Cerrito Veteran's Hall, 6401 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito

How much: \$3 for adults, \$2 for CC&C members, free for children 12 and under

Information: Eve Ma, 510-236-3255.

"The relevance would be for our youth. That age wasn't there during the Civil Rights Movement," Davis said. "What they are told is hearsay. They are

See HISTORY, Page A10

Job shadow program gives students a sneak peek at the working world

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — It was a school day, but Albany High School junior Ali Ranazanzadeh was out of the classroom last week, learning the ins and outs of the nation's legislative system.

He has yearned to be a politician since he learned about government in eighth grade. Now 16 years old, he enthusiastically de-

scribes the process of passing a bill and knows by heart how many people there are in the Senate and House of Representatives — information that might baffle many adults.

Once he studied the Constitution, Ali said, he "knew this is what I wanted to go into. I like this."

As part of his plan to learn more about the political process, Ali participated in the annual Albany High School job-shadowing program last week, spending half a day with Michael Rubiano, a senior staff assistant to Congresswoman Barbara Lee in her 9th District Oakland office. Lee was in Washington, D.C., at the time.

Ali spent much of the day sitting at a conference table in Lee's office, with a view that overlooks

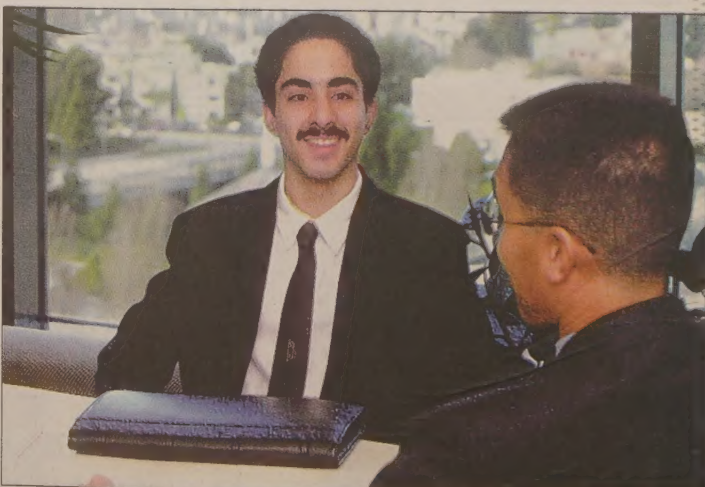
downtown Oakland while Rubiano gave him the scoop about his job.

Rubiano advised Ali to take liberal arts as well as pre-law and business classes in college. He also offered more down-to-earth advice: Learn to schmooze with people, get along with them and you can get things done.

In Lee's office, what she says, goes, Rubiano said. Inside, Lee and her aides can disagree on issues but publicly, they must present a united front in order for her to work effectively for her constituents and get reelected, he said.

"If I have a problem with it, I can get a new job," said Rubiano, straightforwardly, almost proudly. "That's the bottom line."

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ALI RANAZANZADEH, a junior at Albany High, listens to Congresswoman Barbara Lee's staff assistant Michael Rubiano during a job shadowing session Feb. 8 at the Federal Building in Oakland.

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Fairmount Avenue hearing

El Cerrito's Design Review Board will conduct a hearing on the Fairmount Avenue Streetscape Master Plan at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, in conference room A at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. The plan will guide future streetscape amenities and changes for the growing commercial presence on the blocks of Fairmount between San Pablo Avenue and the Ohlone Greenway. Anyone wishing to speak about the plan is invited to attend. Details: 510-215-4330.

School transfers

The Albany Unified School District is now accepting inter-district transfer applications for the current year. This is a recent policy change. There are openings at some (but not all) grade levels; there are wait-lists for some high school and middle school grades, but new applicants can join the wait lists. Students must have and maintain a C average and good disciplinary record. Details: 510-558-3765.

At Cafe Eclectica

Cafe Eclectica, at 1309 Solano Ave. in Albany, is presenting music events today and tomorrow. Tonight it hosts a benefit music show by Students For

Political Awareness from Albany High School to benefit children and women in Afghanistan. Hear four bands for \$4 at this all ages show that starts at 7 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) Tomorrow the cafe hosts a hip hop show with DJ Platurn from "Oakland Faders Collective," MulaBaka, plus special guest DJs. Door opens at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$3 with high school ID, \$5 without. All ages welcome. Details: 510-527-2344

Assembly debate

Democratic candidates for Assembly District 14, Loni Hancock, Charles Ramsey and Dave Brown, will debate from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Oceanview School, 1000 Jackson St in Albany. Sponsored by League of Women Voters, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville. Details: 843-8824

Scouts pancake breakfast

The Albany Cub Scouts will be flipping pancakes and fryin' up bacon and much more at their annual breakfast and raffle Sunday, Feb. 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Veteran's Hall, 1325 Portland Ave. (Memorial Park). Tickets are goin' like hotcakes so be sure to get yours ASAP. Details: 510-527-1676.

ALBANY CHAMBER NOTES

A world-class plea for a world-class festival

By James Carter

JUDGE VERNON N. HADES peered over the top of his reading glasses and gave the accused a piercing look. "Young man, I'm afraid I'm going to have to make an example of you ..."

"But Judge, I'm not young. I'm 50 years old! Besides, what did I ..."

"Silence! So, you're not a young man, eh? Well, you're young for the Chamber."

There was a gasp from the gallery.

"The Chamber?"

"Silence!" the judge declared. And it was as silent as the moment before Creation. Judge Vernon N. Hades lifted his gavel, and it came down with authority, loud as a lightning strike, dire as the heavenly clang of a prison cell. "Guilty as charged," he said. "Take him away ..."

"But Judge, I don't ..."

"Take him away!" he declared.

My attorney, the righteous A.C. Elihu, pressed for clarification regarding my sentence. The judge smiled. "Well, it could be a long time, it could be short. It all depends on if that young man can perform one little task. If he does it, well, he'll be set free in less than five years. If he doesn't ..." The judge peered over his reading glasses again — "Lord have mercy on his soul because he's going to suffer the ultimate punishment."

There was a gasp from the gallery. My mother cried. "But your honor, I'm not a young man. I'm 50 years ..." "Silence!" And all was still. And so there it is. I must now plead my case. I have to raise \$6,000 in seed money for the first annual Spring Festival — "A Taste of Albany" — or I

will suffer the ultimate punishment. And I'm a young man — well, at least for the Chamber.

(The last word drew a gasp from the gallery.)

My attorney and friends assure me it is a task that should be quite easy to perform. Surely there are local institutions who will relish the opportunity to sponsor "A Taste of Albany!" And what a wonderful event it will be! Ten or 12 of the best restaurants in town serving tastes of their best cuisine on a wonderful spring day in Memorial Park, Sunday, June 2. Can you picture it?

And there will be entertainment — pony rides, jugglers and magicians for the kids, music and other forms of merriment — including beer and wine — for the adults. And the proceeds will go to a good cause, 20 percent of the value of each ticket sold going directly to the non-profit organization that sells it!

The list of participating restaurants alone is enough to make your mouth water: Nizza la Bella, Solano Grill and Bar, Fonda, Walker's Restaurant, Clay Pot Seafood House, Thep Naaree, Filippo's Pastaria, Ruen Pair and the caterers from Golden Gate Fields. So sign up now while there is still time, and, by doing so, help me avoid the ultimate punishment — after all, I am a young man — for the Chamber ... (Another gasp from the gallery.)

NEW MEMBERS: Five Little Monkeys is more than a toy store and gift shop — it's a journey through toyland, really. Yes, they have all the modern toys, gizmos and gadgets. They also have every classic toy ever created, from a little red wagon to a yellow rubber ducky.

Do your kids like to play practical jokes? They're got a full line of whoopee cushions, ants-in-ice, disappearing ink

Preschool stories

The Albany Library presents "Saturday Morning Stories and More" for ages 3-6. The free series runs every Saturday at 11 a.m. through March 16th. For more information, call the children's desk: 526-3720.

Ballot discussion

The Richmond Chapter of the League of Women Voters will host a discussion of the propositions on the ballot from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the third-floor conference room of the Summerville Retirement Residence (formerly called El Cerrito Royale) 6510 Gladys Ave. at the corner of Lexington, El Cerrito. All are welcome. Details: Joan Bartulovich, 510-232-1136.

On stage at CCCT

Contra Costa Civic Theatre's PlayMakers series will present "The Unexpected Guest," an Agatha Christie thriller/puzzle that opens a Pandora's box of loves and hates, suspicions and intrigues. The production, directed by Richard Ryan, will be on stage March 1-10. Tickets: \$8. CCCT is at 951 Pomona Ave. in El Cerrito. Details: 510524-9132 or online at www.ccct.org.

and two-headed coins. Or perhaps you are partial to wooden rocking horse, rubber chickens, or a classic '50s-style blue pedal car... It's all there.

A red pedal fire truck with two wood ladders, dragons and robots, dolls and puppets, toys that will make you think and others that will just make you happy. Go and see for yourself. Five Little Monkeys is located at 1230 Solano Ave. Phone: 510-528-4411.

Fonda is the latest creation of Jim Landes, Haig and Cindy Krikorian. Heard of them? They created Lalime's and Jimmy Beans, two marvelous restaurants in Berkeley. Located at 1501 Solano Ave., Fonda is "a meeting place, a corner café where we offer good drinks and wonderful food," according to Michael Hutchings, the manager.

And the food is divine, creations summoned up from across Latin America — try their vatapá, a Brazilian seafood and coconut stew, or the grilled rack of lamb chops, "churrasco style," served with chimichurri. Quesadillas are carefully prepared with queso fresco (fresh Mexican-style cheese) and chile poblano.

The bartenders at Fonda carefully prepare drinks from scratch, grinding mint and squeezing lemons and limes. Try the Iguala — it won't bite — a wonderful rum concoction combining tequila, Kahlua, triple sec, lime, and a dash of sugar. The waitresses are young and lovely, the waiters young and manly, and the wine list quite nice. It's open Monday through Sunday from 5:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. You can reach Fonda at 510-559-9006.

POLICE REPORTS

Stuff stuck in keyholes — nobody saw culprit

By K. Osborn
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the morning of Feb. 4 the owner of a building on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that vandals had put some type of substance into the keyholes. There were no witnesses.

■ On the afternoon of Feb. 4 a resident on the 1100 block of Portland Avenue reported that thieves had broken into his green '98 Honda Accord and stolen items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the evening of Feb. 4 officers responded to the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a subject acting as though he wanted to fight. Officers arrested the man for petty theft, possession of drugs and possession of a controlled substance. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ A '92 Toyota was broken into on the night of Feb. 3 while it was parked on the 600 block of Cornell Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ During the night of Feb. 4 thieves broke into a silver '98 Honda Civic parked on the 1100 block of Ordway Street and stole the in-dash stereo. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 11:30 p.m. on Feb. 5 a resident of an apartment building on the 700 block of Kains Avenue heard his car alarm sounding and went to the garage area to investigate. His white '89 Toyota was broken into but nothing was taken.

■ On the night of Feb. 5 Oakland police reported locating a gold '88 Toyota Camry reported as stolen from Albany. There was minor damage to the car and they had a 32-year-old man in custody. The owner was notified.

■ At about 11 p.m. on Feb. 5 an Albany officer observed a red '92 Volkswagen Jetta that had been broken into. There were no witnesses and the owner was notified.

■ On the morning of Feb. 6 a resident at 545 Pierce St. reported

that thieves had broken into her burgundy colored '96 Nissan Altima parked in the garage area and stole the in-dash stereo. There were no witnesses.

■ During the night of Feb. 5 thieves stole a tan '98 Toyota 4-Runner from the 1100 block of Garfield Street. There were no witnesses.

■ Around noon on Feb. 6 officers located a white and red '88 GMC van on the 900 block of Jackson Street that had been reported as stolen from Berkeley. The steering column was broken and they did not have anyone in custody. The car was towed and the owner notified.

■ During the night of Feb. 5 thieves broke into a '96 Jeep parked on the 900 block of Kains Avenue and stole items.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Feb. 7 officers stopped a silver '98 Toyota on San Pablo Avenue near Cedar Street that was speeding. The driver, a 23-year-old Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the field sobriety test and was arrested for DUI. He was cited and held to be released when sober.

■ At about 2:15 a.m. on Feb. 7 officers stopped a green '86 Oldsmobile Cutlass for a vehicle code violation. The driver, an Emeryville man, was found to be unlicensed and the car did not belong to him. He was cited and released with a notice to appear and the car was towed. The vehicle was later reported as stolen from Emeryville.

■ On the morning of Feb. 7 a resident on the 1200 block of Portland Avenue reported that thieves had stolen the birdbath from her front yard. There were no witnesses.

■ On the night of Feb. 7 Richmond police reported locating a silver '77 Datsun 280z that had been reported as stolen from Albany. The car was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

■ At about 1 a.m. on Feb. 8 Albany officers stopped a blue GMC

pickup near Solano Avenue and Jackson Street for a vehicle violation. The driver, a 23-year-old Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated and arrested without incident. He was transported to the Berkeley Jail's office.

■ During the night of Feb. 5 someone broke into the car parked at 545 Pierce St. and stole the in-dash stereo from it. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 1 a.m. on Feb. 6 officers responded to a report of a fight between two people. Officers arrested a 23-year-old El Cerrito man for battery and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 officers observed a white and red '88 GMC van on the 900 block of Jackson Street that had been reported as stolen from Berkeley. The steering column was broken and they did not have anyone in custody. The car was towed and the owner notified.

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Spray-painters target buildings in El Cerrito

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — At 2:44 p.m. on Feb. 7, a man was arrested after attempting to steal a bottle of alcohol from a business on the 10600 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ The rear walls and glass door of a building on the 10000 block of San Pablo Avenue was found spray-painted at 9 a.m. on Feb. 7. Two other buildings in the area were reported vandalized as well.

■ A woman from the 500 block of Liberty Street reported to police on Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. that someone had used her name and date of birth to open a credit card account. An attempt was made to open a second account as well.

■ A woman was arrested after it was reported that at 1:15 a.m. on Feb. 4 she had stolen three guitars worth \$2,000 from an apartment on the 6400 block of Knott Avenue.

■ At 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 6, a man stole a purse on the 7500 block of Curry Avenue and then drove off while the victim was standing outside, opening the trunk of her vehicle.

■ A vehicle was reported stolen

from the 5900 block of San Diego Street on Feb. 10 at 6:47 a.m.

■ A white Toyota wagon was stolen from the 2200 block of Humboldt Avenue at 11:20 p.m. on Feb. 8.

■ A man tried to rob a vision-impaired man and woman while they were walking on San Pablo near Madison Avenue at 10:58 p.m. on Jan. 31. The robber demanded a wallet from the man and then threatened to kill the woman. The robber then ran away emptyhanded when the man began to yell.

■ A woman told police that a man sexually assaulted her in her apartment on the 5200 block of Cypress Avenue on Jan. 28 at 12:35 a.m. A witness disputed the report, telling police the man was elsewhere at the time.

■ A wall and garage on the 6400 block of Fairmount Avenue were spray-painted sometime between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m. on Feb. 5.

■ A man was arrested on suspicion of felony evading arrest and for five outstanding warrants shortly after 7 p.m. on Feb. 10, after he kept driving during a traffic stop at San Pablo and Co-

lumbia avenues. The Richmond man was followed by a police officer for about a mile, then stopped his car and fled. The man was arrested after a search and was booked at County Jail in Martinez.

■ A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance on Feb. 9 during a stop at Carlson Boulevard Imperial Avenue. A police officer stopped the man's car at 10:30 a.m. and found he was in possession of cocaine. The man was arrested for a violation booked at the El Cerrito Department.

■ A minor girl was arrested on suspicion of soliciting prostitution after she was stopped on Feb. 9 during a stop at Carlson Boulevard Imperial Avenue. A police officer stopped the man's car at 10:30 a.m. and found he was in possession of cocaine. The man was arrested for a violation booked at the El Cerrito Department.

You can email letters to the El Cerrito Journal or Berkeley Voice at: journal@cctimes.com or voice@cctimes.com

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El Cerrito supports tax to help regional parks

STAFF REPORT
EL CERRITO — The City Council agreed last week to back Measure K, a district-wide parcel tax benefiting the East Bay Regional Parks District.

If passed by voters in the March 5 election, the tax would fund environmental maintenance, public safety, resource protection and restoration and public access to parks.

A parks district representative told the council that maintenance and operation funds are lacking for parklands and shoreline, which have grown by 26,000 acres in 12 years.

The tax would amount to \$1 per month for single-family households and 69 cents per month for apartment dwellers. The money would go toward funding 500 park district maintenance projects.

The council unanimously agreed to pass a resolution in support of the measure.

The council also agreed back effort by the West County Unified School District to encourage young students to read. The campaign, West County Reads, is in-

tended to have every child in West County read 20 minutes a day and make sure every child in the third grade reads at grade level. "Only 34 percent of third graders at district schools can read at grade level," said Kevin Hufferd, the chairman for the Community Alliance for Public Education, the group that's spearheading the campaign. "We think this is a situation that cries out for attention."

The council agreed to partner with the district on the campaign.

According to its resolution, the council has agreed to: Help educate the community and parents about the importance of reading aloud with young children 20 minutes each day; encourage the city staff, residents and businesses to volunteer to read to children in schools, churches, libraries and other venues; solicit donations of new and gently used books so that all West County children have plenty of books to read; and support a series of literacy activities celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day starting March 1 and extending through spring.



Doing a good turn

EL CERRITO Youth Baseball dad Lance Kolding trims the sod from the back of the infield at the Harding Park baseball field on a recent weekend. Volunteers were also set to work on the Central Avenue ball field as well. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact the league at via e-mail at www.ECYB@aol.com.

HERMAN BUSTAMANTE JR./STAFF

Nation comes together over millionaires doing mayhem

TEAM SPORTS USED to bore me stiff. I would ask my son, Dixon, front and back-loaded questions like this: "Who wants to watch a bunch of morons bang their heads together so other idiots can get drunk and yell a lot? You see, I just didn't have the Big Picture then, but I do now. And I'm a better man for it.

Super Bowls and age have wrought this mighty change in me. Over the years I came to realize that some of these players are smarter than I, and all of them are infinitely richer. That's the millionaire mayhem out there! Where else can poor folks watch rich ones throw each other around like cord wood? But it was only after paying attention to several Super Bowls I began to realize that these are not just games; they are events of the magnitude of major holidays. Perhaps only Christmas plays in the same league as a national happening.

At the risk of appearing sacrilegious — which I am not — I'd guess more Americans involve themselves in a Super Bowl game than they do in celebrating the birth of Christ and the secularized, mandatory exchange of gifts that overshadows it. With a Super Bowl there are no cards to send, no presents to buy, no big dinner to cook. And maybe best of all, you can enjoy it with friends and not relatives if you like. Just whistle up your buddies, crack out the chips, dips, and beer, and let her rip.

It's all pleasure and no pain, unless, of course, your team loses. It was the realization that on this one day Americans were united as a nation in something, however meaningless in itself, that gave me the Big Picture at last. I now be-

lieve that football and the other major team sports have become one of the most important sinews binding an increasingly multiethnic country together.

And the more diverse we become, the greater the need for events of wide emotional appeal to counter the centrifugal forces this diversity inevitably generates.

Here's one small example of how this binding process works. I'm coming out of a supermarket a couple hours before the Sunday Super Bowl. I see a fellow sitting on a bench eating a sandwich and listening to a pre-game radio show. I pause to listen, and we start talking.

His name is Joe Chavez. He knows a lot about the New England Patriots and the St. Louis Rams — which I don't — and he enjoys filling me in. So he takes the lead and I play second parts, throw in a couple bars of humor now and then. In no time we are rockin' and rollin' pretty good. He tells me the Rams are a sure thing and to bet on them. Here's a tape of the swap chorus that followed: "So you put any money on the Rams?" I ask.

"Look," he says, "I put my money where my mouth is." "You mean the four and a half bucks you put on that roastbeef sandwich?" "No, I mean the 30-buck bet I put in my mouth before the sandwich."



DAVE GREER
 Man About Town

IN BRIEF

Assembly candidates' forum is Feb. 26

BERKELEY — Moderator Bill Beckner, evening news anchor on KPIX-TV, will lead a forum with Dave Brown, Loni Hancock and Charles Ramsey the three Democratic candidates for the recently redrawn 14th Assembly District from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center 1414 Walnut St. (between Rose and Oak) in Berkeley.

Candidates will address issues of interest to the Jewish community. The forum, hosted by the East Bay Region of the Jewish Community Relations Council and sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay, is free and open to the public. Details: 510-438-2900, ext. 211.

Education foundation Feb. 18

ALBANY — The Albany Education Foundation has a new location for its annual gala gathering. Sam and Philip Chin, owners of the Solano Grill and Bar, 1133 Solano Ave., are providing their restaurant for this year's event on Feb. 18. Invitations to the Gala Silent Auction for Great Albany Schools on Monday, Feb. 18, are now being sent out. Tickets are \$60 per person. A table of eight may be reserved for \$480. Call 510-558-6823 to make reservations for the 5 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. seating. Checks should be made

to AEF and sent to AEF at 1320 Solano Ave., Suite 102, Albany 94706. Payment must be received in order to confirm a reservation. Reserve now, seating is limited.

Event planners are hoping to exceed the \$11,000 net proceeds from last year, which was used to fund a variety of Albany school programs.

Schools forum and candidates debate

ALBANY — Kevin Gordon, Executive Director of California Association of School Business Officials, will explain state-level funding for K-12 schools in an event entitled, "Paying for Public Education: Whose Job Is It?" The event is at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Ocean View Elementary School, 1000 Jackson St. in Albany, and is open to the public.

Beginning at 4:40 p.m., Loni Hancock, Charles Ramsey and Dave Brown, candidates for the 14th California Assembly seat, will square off in a public debate and answer questions from attendees.

Parking is limited. Free childcare provided. The event is sponsored by the Albany Education Foundation, Albany High School PTA, Albany Middle School PTA, Albany PTA Council, Albany Teachers' Association, Cornell Elementary PTA, League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, Marin Elementary PTA, Ocean View Elementary PTA, SchoolCARE (Schools and Citizens of Albany to Rescue Education).

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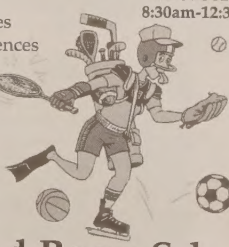
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Opinion

EDITORIAL

\$100 million marriage

THE VIRTUES OF MARRIAGE are being touted again, and to some degree we tout, too. We agree with those who say two-parent families are generally, though not always, better for children and an important factor in keeping the kids out of poverty.

We don't, however, think a lot of mothers on welfare are disagreeing. We doubt that most of them are shunning their suitors. Many of them would in fact welcome the help, the companionship and the financial benefits that purportedly come along with a spouse.

Lucky for them President Bush has apparently decided to play matchmaker. He's put \$100 million in the welfare part of his budget proposal to go toward getting these women married.

This is really a test of states' creativity. If passed by Congress, it wouldn't be a mandate, but states would be asked what they are doing to encourage marriage. The administration is looking for experimental programs that encourage moms to marry their babies' daddies.

Sometimes it's just not that easy. Often the fathers of these women's children have moved on to other women. They are often serial impregnators. They are irresponsible and selfish; otherwise their children would not likely be on welfare.

These men aren't really the best candidates for father or husband. Now if the president is encouraging programs that makes these men marriageable, this idea gains merit.

But in a nation where divorce is such an easy answer to marriage problems, the idea of forcing marriage is ill-conceived.

It is optimistic to say elected officials — who complicate pothole repair — will have to be brilliant; they will have to figure out how, on their portion of \$100 million, to reverse the trend of divorce.

Recent studies have shown better educated people, with the blush off their adulthood, have a lesser divorce rate.

It would seem, therefore, that to help single mothers and their at-risk children most officials would want to help them educationally. Job-training is a good start.

Then they can get good-paying jobs so they can sufficiently and efficiently take care of themselves and their children despite the lack of that second income.

Encouraging them to further their education and helping them logistically and financially to do that would help them acquire better work positions and in the long run may well contribute to real and lasting marriages.

We're not opposed to marriage, far from it, but we don't believe successful marriages can be coerced or bought for \$100 million.

Money, happiness link

MONEY IS, APPARENTLY, the answer to everything. Once there was a time when people believed money bought things, but the true essentials of life — such as peace, health, love, happiness, self-esteem, respect — were not things you could buy. Well, that was then, this is now.

More than one study has found money makes people happy. A 10-year study by University of Warwick researchers found that a windfall of money increases people's happiness over a short-term, but the people get used to it and come to expect that level of comfort. A study by American economists found similar results. It also indicated that people with a certain amount of money were living happier lives. A study from the National Opinion Research Center quantified it: To reach more than 50 percent of very happy and happy people, the household had to earn more than \$75,000 a year per; that's about 102,000 San Francisco dollars.

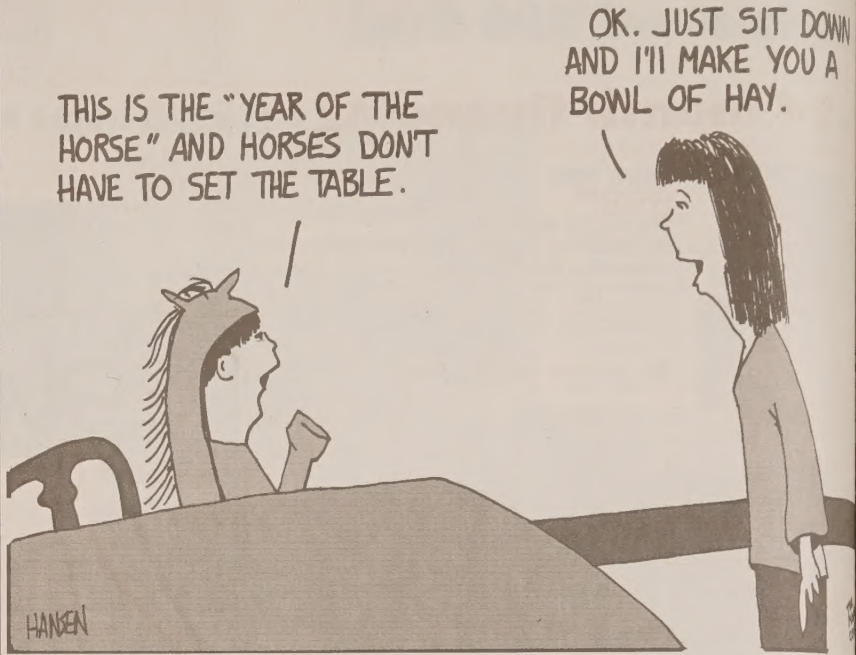
The economists learned that people are actually happier with inherited or won money than with money they earned. Several studies have shown money being tied to a stable marriage and good health. People with money also get more respect.

These are more sad indicators of our changing society. We used to respect people based on their work ethic, their character, their actions. Now we judge their worthiness based on their car and other possessions. We are not deep-running still waters but instead shallow puddles.

But we're not dried up and lost yet. Researchers and average Joes and Jills agree it's not the money itself that makes one happy. There's no magical chemical in cash. People are temporarily happy because they can buy stuff, all the things they've ever wanted. They can take trips, work less, share and not worry. There's a new freedom. That sudden windfall takes away the everyday monetary stresses.

Too many people strive to be rich instead of trying to be good people. And too many people think that just having money will solve all their woes and make them happy. The sooner they realize that 1) windfalls, such as winning the lottery, happen to only a slim few, and 2) it's likely to be only a temporary happiness then perhaps more people can get on with living the best lives they can. They will realize and teach their children and those around them by example that happiness is all around them, in family, friends, nature and the array of activities and things available in their own price ranges. But even more importantly it's within them.

IT'S CHINESE NEW YEAR TIME



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Rupf

The office of sheriff is non-partisan, as it should be.

Warren Rupf has served as sheriff for nine of his 36 years of public service in Contra Costa County. He's held every rank in the office of the sheriff, working as a deputy on the streets, patrolling high crime areas, and making executive decisions.

Rupf's achievements as sheriff include: alleviating overcrowding in detention facilities by implementing alternatives to detention; providing inmates the opportunity to learn new skills by their participation in work programs; and establishing the Domestic Violence Unit to thoroughly investigate and interview all parties involved in reports of domestic violence.

Rupf's successful community policing programs include: sheriff's specialists in each station establishing and coordinating community crime prevention efforts; deputies focusing attention on quality-of-life issues in unincorporated areas; and justice teams adjusting schedules to focus on emerging problems or needs.

Rupf deals with issues and people directly and pragmatically. He solves problems and conveys to people the limits of his abilities to provide solutions. Rupf's priorities are safe communities and maintaining quality service. He accomplishes both, while balancing a tight budget.

Through partnerships, collaborations and hard work, on Rupf's watch, Contra Costa is safe. He has earned our support.

Susan Prather
Jean Siri
El Cerrito

Wagging the dog?

While I agree with George W. Bush that we should have zero tolerance for terrorists, and whichever nations harbor them, I'm worried that this "axis of evil" rhetoric may be going too far.

Not having a lot of support domestically, Bush may want to use war to keep himself popular. I hope we aren't wagging the dog here.

Steve Geller
Berkeley

Tit for tat

I hope the liberals make as much political hay out of the "suicide" of former Enron executive, Cliff Baxter, as the right-wingers made of Vincent Foster's.

Baxter was reported to be a pretty decent man who got out early and used at least some of his Enron stock earnings for charitable purposes, unlike that slimeball friend-of-Dubya crook, Ken Lay, and several other sleazebag Enron executives.

Like rats, they deserted a sinking ship. Furthermore, they stole all the life jackets and let their unsuspecting employees go down with the boat.

It's so predictable that every cent of

their ill-gotten millions will eventually end up in the pockets of their lawyers for trying to keep them out of prison.

What a pity that a man with a conscience killed himself, while others who haven't got a shred of common decency are still on the loose ... so far.

Barbara Hill
El Cerrito

Dismantle eyesore

The second tallest structure in Berkeley — at 170 feet, surpassed in height only by the Campanile on the UC Berkeley campus — was recently built in a residential neighborhood.

No neighbor had been shown a plan for it. No public meeting had reviewed such a plan. Its developer had no permit to build it. It has lowered neighbors' property values. Its appearance has offended virtually everyone.

This architectural monstrosity and renegade, this monument to the blatant violation of those standards of public taste and process that Berkeley nurtures so proudly, is our new Public Safety Building communication tower on McKinley Street. Purchased out of a catalog and slammed together over a weekend, it has to be seen to be believed.

Residents who value Berkeley's thoughtful land-use standards are joining the outcry to dismantle the thing and insist that its replacement receive public review.

Rob Browning
Berkeley

Info on Stege

I enjoyed reading "Where We Live, El Cerrito & Kensington." I think it accurately reflected the current issues with our schools and local government, especially the resurgent positive feelings for the new El Cerrito Plaza and other emerging economic development opportunities in our area.

However, you missed a golden opportunity to inform your readers about another local government agency, the Stege Sanitary District.

Stege, a special district of the state, has the responsibility of collecting the sanitary wastes from El Cerrito, Kensington and Richmond Annex, and delivering them safely to the East Bay Municipal Utility District treatment plant in Oakland. Stege is governed by a five-member elected board.

Board president is Doug Bruce, from the Richmond Annex. Other board members include Bea O'Keefe, Dwight Merrill and Al Miller from El Cerrito, and Jay James from Kensington. Day-to-day district activities are managed by Doug Humphrey, district manager and engineer.

Stege is located at the end of Schmidt Lane, directly across from the El Cerrito Recycling Center. Questions about district activities and policies are always welcome. They should be directed to Doug

Humphrey at 510-524-4668 or in writing to him at Stege, P.O. Box 537, El Cerrito CA 94530-0537. The Web site is <http://www.stegesd.dst.ca.us>.

Save our shops

In 1950, there were 150 periods shop taught each school day. We now have only 12 periods of shop taught the whole district.

In 1947, I taught wood shop at the sevelt Junior High in Richmond and from 1950 to 1960, at Helms Junior High in San Pablo.

My three children, and many other children, liked and learned more from these classes than any other classes. It was stupid to get rid of all the shop classes at Helms and, as far as I'm concerned, it's criminal that the school district administrators want to get rid of shop classes. Our two new schools have no real shops.

I have photos showing all the machines in the shop at Helms being destroyed by rust because they never got the leaking roof. I also have photos showing the wonderful projects my students made there and in the other two schools.

If there are five periods of shop being taught at Portola Junior High in El Cerrito, students at all other junior and senior high schools should have the opportunity.

If you wish to help stop the destruction of all our shops, please call me at 510-234-7122.

Waiver hurt many

Albany is known for its wonderful schools and, more importantly, its dedicated teachers. Just two years ago, it seemed every other house had a sign saying, "Albany teachers deserve a fair wage."

If parents feel Albany has top-notch and top students, they should demand a waiver in the future exempting a child from STAR testing.

By signing the waiver, a minority of parents caused the dedicated teachers at Albany High to miss out on \$500 bonuses. Since the test scores last year do not have a benchmark with which to compare them, the faculty's \$500 bonus next year is not available.

The worst part is that a few students at Albany High probably scored high enough to be awarded a scholarship of \$1,000 to \$3,000, which they were able to claim.

We read every week about budget cuts, rising cost of living and costs climbing faster than inflation, allowing children to take the STAR test next year, money that is already available will find its way to Albany.

Hank Sch...

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THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Vocal jazz teacher helps promote joyful sounds

I KNEW I WAS going to enjoy this interview, when I approached his home and found it a true "gingerbread house," painted lovingly in happy colors.

Richard Kalman, a pianist and teacher, teaches vocal jazz. I was not sure what vocal jazz entailed, but when Kalman showed me videos of some of his students, I realized the breadth of this type of singing, and the joyous sounds that came forth. What a delight. And looking at the faces of his adult students as they sang, I could see how much they were enjoying it.

One of the videos he showed me was students from an elementary school, where he taught for a while, kindergarten through third grade, singing their joyous little hearts out. I felt sorry that he was no longer teaching children of this age vocal jazz.

For the last five years, Kalman has been teaching at the Albany Adult School. And it was some of these students who were singing in the video he showed me.

Richard Kalman was born in Oakland. His father was a CPA and his mother a nursery school teacher. His older brother ran a summer camp in the Sierras for 30 years. He is now retired to Hawaii where he runs a sports fishing boat. Kalman attended Castlepoint High School, and at UC earned his degree in political science.

"I was supposed to go to law



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

school, but somehow I didn't follow through with that."

Instead he got involved with improvisational theater, and stayed with it for six years as a light man and general support person. The group specialized in political satire.

"I had been musically active all my life," he says, starting with piano lessons in his youth and later the guitar, at a time when folk singing was very popular. He played the guitar for years, even playing with a group on TV. But in his middle 20s he went back to the piano. His lessons had always been in classical piano, but now he started teaching himself to play jazz, and played at coffee houses.

During this time, and for seven years, Kalman worked as an eligibility worker at the welfare department in San Francisco. Feeling that it was a job that wasn't going anywhere, he quit that and worked for plumbing contractors in the East Bay as a purchasing agent.

Maintaining his interest in music and art, he took many art courses at CCAC in Oakland. When the expanding

company let him go, he decided to go back to music, and attended Sonoma State University where he earned a degree in music. During this time he started taking private students, going to their homes to give them lessons.

Advertisements in the newspaper brought him many more students, both adults and children, and people from diverse backgrounds.

When someone suggested teaching at an adult school, he obtained an adult school teaching credential and began offering his vocal jazz classes. He, for himself, tried all kinds of music, including playing with a gamelan orchestra for a while.

To improve himself he started studying vocal jazz from a local teacher, Molly Holm, and discovered a whole community of jazz musicians in the Bay Area. An organization, Rhythm Concepts, offered a jazz camp, which he attended a couple of times, "working closely with really professional musicians."

When a jazz choir was started he joined, and stayed with them for six years.

"It was fabulous, a lot of fun. Nice gigs. Fine reputation." He also sang with the Interfaith Gospel Choir in Oakland, which has been amazingly successful, singing at opera houses and on national TV.

Restless, and wanting to do something else, he decided to begin teaching. Albany was his

first choice and it was there that he began his adult school career teaching vocal jazz. He also taught in the adult school at Piedmont, and at the Bluebear school in San Francisco. He has expanded to Lafayette, and his classes in Albany grew so that he was able to teach both beginners and intermediate classes, where he added "big band stuff" to his curriculum.

His students sometimes go to senior homes to sing for the residents. He added jazz jam classes when he was asked to take over a big band — and with that class he has gotten out into the community, performing at county fairs, at the Berkeley Music Circus and at Anna's many times, as well as at private parties.

Kalman now has a vocal jazz group of his own: Con Alma (meaning With Soul) and that group, too, has performed throughout the Bay Area.

Teaching vocal jazz remains his great love, but that and the groups playing "great gigs" keep him interested and excited. His happy smile and great enthusiasm show that he is really enjoying his vocal jazz career.

Thank you, Gene Share, for calling me about Richard Kalman. And I invite all of you to tell me about interesting people. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706, or call 525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

Greer

FROM PAGE A2

Know this: You are going to have to wait while your new tires are put on no matter where you go. Unless, of course, someone can pick you up at the shop and bring you back later. With research and luck, you might trim this to an hour or maybe a tad less. But the odds are it will cost you money to save time. This choice was a no-brainer for me even when Costco estimated a two-hour wait and the Voice of Experience whispered it would probably be more.

And it was, too. About 40 minutes more. However, I got off easy compared to two fellows who preceded me that Friday afternoon. One waited three hours and the other three and a half.

Why wait so long? Well, follow the money. One man estimated he saved 80 bucks — which is what I saved — and the other more than 70. You

can get estimates and figure out how much you might save an hour.

It has been years since I was threatened by regular employment, so I didn't even bother to do the math. The secret of successful waiting is to use your time so you really aren't waiting. And Costco is a good place to do that. You can shop until you flop, browse books, and chow down with the nice ladies giving out sample munchies. They learn a lot about human nature on that job and can spin some good yarns. You might consider going at lunch time and getting a pizza or hot dog to eat in the dining area or outside in your vehicle while it's waiting to be worked on. It will be relaxing in the parking lot much of the time. Be sure to bring a second key to get into it after turning in your keys when you make the deal in the business office.

And here's a real insider tip: Put a big, bright marker you can see at a distance on the

key ring you turn in. The keys go on clipboards that are hung in the order received on the inside of the garage wall. The technicians take them from left to right and work on the vehicles in that order. You can stand outside the shop area and see how close to your keys they are getting. I figured they were doing five or six an hour, but that was just one afternoon, and your day might be different.

So why — beside the crush of customers — does it take so long? Here's what happens: First, the wheels are taken off. Then the tires are peeled from the rims and new ones mounted and properly inflated. Next tire and rim are put on a machine that spins them, showing where the lead balancing weights should be hammered on. This is vital and takes the most skill and time. Finally, the wheels are remounted and the

spare put away.

Just thought you would like to know the wait isn't because the guys are doggin' it. They have five bays working and move the cars in and out as fast as they can. All the shop people I talked to were friendly and helpful. And they were working while I was loafing. Bear that in mind if you're tempted to crab to them about the wait.

A last thought for the road: if you tire — so to speak — of shopping, eating, or rereading "War and Peace," you might take a walk in the nearby Point Isabel Regional Shoreline. This is a free-roaming dog park, so you can bring Fido to enjoy the outing with you. And when you get back and see those shiny new roundies holding up all four corners of Ole Faithful, you'll be glad you spent the money and maybe even the time.

EL CERRITO PTA NEWS

Bayside Council of PTAs

Membership dues payments should be sent now to Michele Jawad, Bayside Membership Chair, 7717 Eureka, El Cerrito 94530.

Adams Middle School

Join the PTA for \$7 per member. Send your payment of \$7 per member and include the member's name, address, phone number, student's name, along with the e-mail address. Send in your membership to Adams PTA, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805. PTA Voice Message Box: Weekly updates of what is happening at school. The number to call is 510-464-1360, ext. 70 E-mail Group: Weekly e-mail bulletins sent. Send your e-mail address to cchan2429@aol.com

Castro Elementary

Fundraisers: Castro is enrolled in eScrip (ID#137627554), Albertson's, Target, and SchoolPop fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 510-236-0761

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany PTA Council

Feb. 23, Public Forum, 3-5:30 p.m., Ocean View Library, 3 p.m. "Paying for Public Education — Whose Job is it?" featuring Kevin Gordon; 4:30 p.m. Candidates Debate for the 14th Congressional District sponsored by League of Women Voters — Lori Hancock (D), Charles Ramsey (D), Dave Brown (D)

Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Molly Mitchell at mmm1123@aol.com Feb. 19 athletic boosters meet 7 p.m. Feb. 28, Middle School Night, 7 p.m., Little Theater SCRIP Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 527-0745 or e-mail Edna at ednaming@aol.com

Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at ltopm@earthlink.net SCRIP Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 510-527-0745 or e-mail Edna at ednaming@aol.com

Cornell Elementary School

Feb. 20, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room SCRIP orders: Call Mark Priven 528-2082 or e-mail Mark at prwwest@pacbell.net

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El Cerrito High

New Scrip Sales: El Cerrito PTA is enrolled in the eScrip program. Our group ID is 528-0761. Join the eScrip team. To sign up, please e-mail: Stock-Buyat at jstokbuyat@aol.com

Portola Middle School

Teen Center — Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Community Center, Feb. 28 monthly. Great activities, special events. Call 510-464-1360 for more information. E-mail school information and notices direct to your e-mail address or on the mail list to kahnlos@dnai.com

Items? Call Linda Talmage at 510-237-6183 or e-mail: moto@yahoo.com

Marin Elementary

Feb. 21, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m. Staff Room Interested parents receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at tree@aol.com SCRIP orders: Call Helena Kallala 526-4902 or e-mail Helena Kallala at h.kallala@att.net Paper Scrip for sale in this area, Wednesday and Friday a.m. and Monday and Friday a.m.

Ocean View Elementary School

Feb. 28, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m. View Library Scrip Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 527-0745 or e-mail Edna at ednaming@aol.com

AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 21, Special Meeting 7 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room Making Considerations re: Feb. 26, Regular Meeting 7 p.m. Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Feb. 15, President's Day Feb. 18, President's Day Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: instein@yahoo.com

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Dr. Jane Mahakian, an expert in aging and memory and President of Aging Matters, Inc., spoke to over 75 people on "Memory and Aging, What's Normal, What's Not?" at the Bellevue Club near Lake Merritt in Oakland. The seminar was well received by families and professionals who find themselves caring for older adults with some form of dementia such as Alzheimer's. The seminar was sponsored by Lakeside Park, a new community for individuals with dementia located by Lake Merritt in Oakland. Call (510) 444-4684 if you would like information about Lakeside Park.



Memory and Aging Seminar sponsored by Lakeside Park. From left Stephanie Sutton, Judith Dancer, Tracey Weber and Jane Mahakian.

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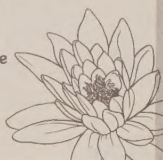
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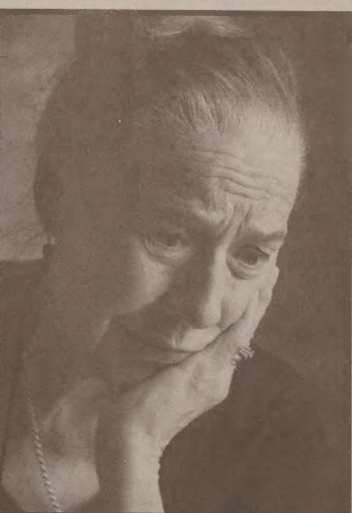
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El Cerrito on track in meeting housing goals

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Thanks to low projected growth in population and jobs, the city is on track to meet planned housing goals for the next four years, say city officials.

The city is currently working on a housing element, a part of its general plan that details the number of units that need to be built from 1999 to 2006. Some 185 units need to be built, according to a regional governmental agency.

Thirty-seven of those units must be for very low income residents; 23 for low income; 48 for moderate income and 77 for above moderate-income residents.

"We're pretty much on track to meet all of them," said El Cerrito associate planner Regina Adams. "We're actually doing well."

El Cerrito has a small amount of housing that need to be built compared to bigger Bay Area cities, said Alex Amoroso, principal planner for the Association of Bay Area Governments, the regional government agency that allocates the numbers of housing units that need to be planned for each Bay Area jurisdiction. The city is small, built out and the number of jobs is expected to increase relatively little.

"A pretty small, pretty minuscule proportion of the Bay Area's growth will happen in El Cerrito which makes sense because El Cerrito is a small place," he said. The city is expected to grow by 178 households and 254 jobs by 2006. In the case of households, that's a 10th of a percent of the entire Bay Area growth, said Amoroso.

"It's not very significant on a regional level but these numbers always have local impact because it's incumbent on local folks to plan for housing," he said. "I'm sure 185 units took some work to plan for in El Cerrito."

Local folks are confident they will meet housing goals.

"We're far ahead of the process in meeting our goal once the El Cerrito Mill & Lumber project is built," said Bea O'Keefe, planning commission chair, referring to a planned development at San Pablo Avenue and Schmidt Lane. "So any future development that occurs over the next few years is just an added plus for the city."

Adams said 126 apartment units are expected to be built at the mill and lumber site and 15 percent of those would be affordable housing.

"The above-markets are easier," she said, "and we only need to produce 77 (housing units) of those."

O'Keefe added that the city wants to create more mixed use areas, which would create areas of multi-family housing, plus retail and office space.

"I think the city has done a very good job of meeting our housing requirement," said O'Keefe. "I think the challenge is going to be to develop our mixed uses around the Del Norte BART station and El Cerrito Plaza and other areas that are designated mixed use."

"The challenge is going to be to get a good mix of retail, offices and houses," she added, "so the additional services required by housing are supported by the revenue that is generated through our mixed use areas."

"I think part of the problem is that the general plan doesn't define what mixed use is, therefore we're struggling to find out what definition of mixed use is," she said.

The city is looking at possibly updating its 25-year-old zoning ordinance, as part of the housing element, because some residents feel the it's too restrictive; for example, the city's requirement that homes have two-car garages. Also, the zoning ordinance could be updated to allow higher housing densities where they are currently not allowed, Adams said.

"Those are the main issues —

they revolve around the zoning ordinance update," she said.

The housing each jurisdiction must plan for is based on numbers allocated from the state to regional governmental agencies. ABAG then allocates numbers based on population and job growth.

After the city finishes reviewing the housing element, the draft will be sent to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (SCHD) for a 60-day review period. The element will be returned to the city which will again revise it, incorporating changes and comments from the SCHD and the public. After that, it will be sent back to the SCHD for final state certification, which must be completed by June 1.

The city has held two workshops on the housing element to discuss with residents how best to meet housing goals. The Planning Commission held a review session on the outcome of those workshops on Wednesday, Feb. 6 and the City Council is expected to hold a review session soon.

"It's a long process and we need as many people participating," said Councilwoman Kathleen Perka. "We have to be confident that we can execute anything we put into it. It's a community document, basically."

History

FROM PAGE A1

standing on the shoulders of remarkable individuals like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who came before them. They have no concept of the struggle."

The church's New Generation Choir will perform gospel melodies with a historical twist, accompanied by a drummer, guitarist and pianist. The harmonious group is filled with a few dozen young adults.

The Bay Area Steppers will perform hip-hop drills and rap songs. The 30-member group will also recite some poetry on stereotypes, written by founder and choreographer Tosha Williams Harris. The vocal stylings of recording artist Sonjay of Sonjay's Productions may also be enjoyed by local audiences.

City Hall

FROM PAGE A1

funding sources.

"The next thing we're going to be doing is looking at the relative cost of each of the three alternatives," said Keimach, "and we're also going to be working with financial consultants and they're going to be coming to the next meeting and say 'Here's a whole range of options for financing a city hall or civic center.'"

The first civic center workshop took place during a coun-

Oakland-based Soto plans to present pieces, including one titled "I Don't Know."

The 28-year-old Berkeley Alternative turned a passion for poetry and journal-writing into a conscious poetry reading event's theme, the torch of the struggle is still an ongoing battle."

"The fate of African Americans struggling against racism is up to people who Soto said. "Just like you go, 'If you don't want your past, you're not peat it.' We need to see the struggles and know a few liberties have been the struggle is still an ongoing battle."

cil meeting Monday.

At the meeting, and about 10 residents the project with BSA Architects in San Francisco. Using poster-size drawings, three alternatives discussed a range of options, including where the hall could be placed, whether the library one or two stories, or not to include businesses. However, were made.

"This is our first step back," said Janson, after the meeting.

Shadow

FROM PAGE A1

After graduating from UC Berkeley with a double major in ethnic studies and mass communications in 1994, Rubiano worked for Pacific Bell and the press office of the Armed Services Committee in Washington D.C., among other jobs, before joining Lee's 18-member staff team a year ago.

Rubiano told Ali he spent the previous night working until 3 a.m. in order to brief Lee about military base closures in Oakland for a debate with District 9 challenger Kevin Green.

"A 10-hour work day is quite typical," Rubiano advised. "A 60-70 hour work week is quite typical."

"This is not a job for people looking to kick back, relax and have weekends off," he said, adding that the rewards make up for the hard work. "I took the job because I know even if it's for a year, or 10 years, this type of experience is hard to duplicate. When you find a job this special, you don't let it go and you enjoy

it as long as it lasts."

Talking to Rubiano, Ali only became more motivated to do similar work. "Politics is interesting for me because you're having the ability to affect people's lives — make positive changes," he said.

He liked getting an insider's view of the democratic process.

"Some things you don't know by following the news or following current events," he said. "Some things are specific to this environment."

And he liked getting the chance to hang out at Barbara Lee's office because he felt Lee is a "good politician" and good at representing her constituents. Like Lee, Ali would have voted against the war in Afghanistan, a hot-button issue for the representative.

After spending just a few hours with Rubiano, Ali said being in Lee's office was worthwhile.

"I actually put lawyer/politician (on a job-shadow list) but I got lucky I got this," he said. "I think it's a unique opportunity, not that many people can come in an office like this and see how it works — get an inside view of politics." The job-shadow program was

put together three years ago at Albany High School. In November students consider a range of professions for the students and sophomores use a computer program to help narrow down their hoped-for career options.

Mary Lou Sumberg, career and tutor counselor, with help from parents, find professionals for juniors to shadow.

About 90 of the 200 juniors at Albany High School participate in the program, shadowing everyone from auto mechanics, nurses, pilots and theater directors, to astronomers, geographers and lawyers.

"The intention is to provide students with the opportunity to experience the world of work," said Sumberg, "with the idea of helping to motivate them in terms of their school work or just their career planning."

As for Ali, the program was one more learning experience in his career path. His next step?

"I want to go to law school, definitely," he told Rubiano. "I've always been interested about learning law. I felt I had the ability to learn this stuff."

Del Norte

FROM PAGE A1

higher density residential and of course that's of key significance to BART, the land owner.

"All three uses provide great opportunities for El Cerrito to stimulate nighttime activity as well as daytime activity and provide a nice place for people to live," he added, "and in these mixed-use communities, what happens is, people live, work and play all in the same neighborhood and I think it's the objective of 'new urbanist' design to create a people-friendly place in which to congregate."

Nearby residents however, are concerned about where to put the 1,500 parking spaces that will be needed, including 1,000 replacement spaces for BART parking and 500 new spaces for the development. The parking is planned to go largely underground, said Oewel.

"The challenge is how to do it and not create a parking structure

which is objectionable," he said. "Neighborhood residents are very unhappy with the existing parking structure which stands four or five levels above grade," he said, adding that neighbors are also tired of loud car alarms going off.

"We have to do a good job in putting parking in an area that will not intrude in the neighborhood," he said.

CFC Corporation has had an agreement with BART to develop the site since 1994. The company came up with a proposal that included a movie theater in 1996 but resident protest prompted CFC to go back to the drawing board.

"We proposed a development plan in the late 1990s that we thought was well suited to the city but there was a strong protest from local neighborhoods which prompted us to withdraw the application before we ever got it to the City Council," said Oewel.

"From my understanding, the community or neighborhood wasn't happy with what was proposed and now Charlie is trying to gather

more public input as he is trying to develop a plan for the site," said City manager Scott Hanin.

A third workshop for residents to give their input will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 23. Participants will use the principles established in the first workshops to evaluate alternative development scenarios prepared for the site. Following that, said Oewel, some analysis will be done and a draft plan for what will be on the application will be presented to the City Council March 18.

If all goes as planned, construction could begin as soon as 18 months after that.

"We're really reaching out to El Cerrito citizens to give us some guidance here and allow us to respond to what they want to see developed on the property," said Oewel. "I don't think people want to see the area not developed. It becomes a vacant wasteland on weekends and evenings. I think everybody lines up to say we want to see this area developed, it's just a question of how."

Chess

FROM PAGE A1

sible consequences.

An hour into it, he let the youngsters go at it. Upwards of eight pairs of youngsters duked it out on their own boards. Pruess himself played against one young challenger, while about four adults crowded around, intensely examining the game.

Children as young as 6 and a few adults attended the workshop, entranced by the fun and competition of the game.

"It helps us to learn strategy and go beyond the basic understanding of chess," said Sylvia Lopez, who was chaperoning her 6-year-old son Geoffrey to the class. Originally her daughter Lesly was into the game, then Lopez and her husband began playing it, then her son. "Now he (her son) plays and it's his favorite thing to do now."

Todd Gadberry said he brings his son Aidan, who was introduced to the game by a friend, to the workshop.

"David's great," said Gadberry, in the middle of a game with his young son. "He's been able to go over different moves, different themes — the opening, middle and end game — it's really nice."

"It's just fun," added Aidan, at first shrugging his shoulders, unsure of why he liked the game.

Chris Staley, a 14-year-old Portola Middle School student, said he's been playing since the beginning of the school year. "I like chess because I'm pretty good at it and it's what I beat my friends at," he said.

"I'd like to be better at it and be a chess master," said Ocean View Elementary student Chowyu Zhang, with a smile. "I think my dad just taught me how to play chess and I kept going on."

"It's good for the brain," added Qiuping Wu, an Albany resident who took her 6-year-old son to the workshop.

Pruess, a Berkeley resident with many tournament chess titles under his belt, was mentored by Robert Haines, the previous instructor, and earned the chess ranking of master sometime in high school. Pruess grew up enjoying logic and math puzzles and learned to play chess when he was about 12.

The game is fun, he said because the problem-solving in chess can be intricate — and attractive. "If you come up with a complicated solution that's really in-

genious or original or like that, it's a great thing that with others." Pruess says "Oh wow, that's fun." We all appreciate things."

Pruess started the workshop in January to find a replacement for keeping the workshop indefinitely. He was selfless of Haines' untimely death — a rarity anywhere — "There's not much in on," he said.

Pruess suggested he was so popular because meeting and competing people and the game is fun and keeps the mind sharp. "Chess is fun for kids," he said. "It's ways different, than more to learn."

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Friday, February 15, 2002

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B6]
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B12]

Don't wait until spring to sell your home

In 2002 this is a strategy that might backfire

BY RICHARD KEELING
 MONTCLAIR BETTER HOMES REALTY

Good timing is as critical in real estate as in the world of stock investing. According to conventional wisdom, winter is the worst time to put your home on the market. Supposedly there aren't many buyers looking then, and those who do to sell will not get as much for their properties as they would in the spring.

This year there's an additional reason for waiting: The national and local economies both took losses in 2001, and most would agree we're looking for a recovery in 2002. Given that premise, it's logical to assume that a healthier economy would produce higher prices for real estate in the Oakland hills.

Sensible as they seem, these arguments may prove fallacious—and possibly quite costly to homeowners who definitely plan to sell but are waiting for strategic reasons.

For one thing, there are plenty of buyers looking for homes this winter, and reasonably-priced properties are still receiving multiple offers and selling for well over the listed prices.

To confirm this yourself, simply drop by an Open House in your neighborhood next Sunday. Agents in our office are regularly having more than 100 guests at Open Houses in various locations throughout the Oakland hills.

What you'll also notice, however, is the scarcity of Open Houses to attend. On Jan. 23, as I write this article, there are only two homes on the market in Redwood Heights and one available listing in Glenview. Montclair shows 25 available



RICHARD KEELING
 Real Estate Forum

homes, but 17 of these have been on the market for 60 days and are basically non-competitive at current prices.

This lack of inventory gives a distinct advantage to sellers, since a relatively large number of buyers are in competition to purchase a relatively small number of homes, and sale prices will more than likely tend to be high.

Come spring, the buyers will still be there, but there will probably be

See KEELING, Page B2

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A Lalique-style original chandelier complements the home's dining room. The modern kitchen has lots of cabinets and a greenhouse window. You'll enjoy the breakfast nook and a converted entertainment room with French doors.

Denise Milburn joins Berkeley Hills Realty

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

Denise Milburn has joined the East Bay firm of Berkeley Hills Realty. Milburn has been in real estate since 1989, and represents both sellers and buyers of East Bay properties.

"Denise is one of the best agents around," says Berkeley Hill's owner Peter Damm. "She's smart, highly ethical, and gives the most careful care of her clients." Damm admits that he and his partner, Nancy Mueller, had long hoped that Denise would join their company.

A recent client, Aaron Miller, says, "Denise. You really make a difference in people's lives."

In addition to her work in real estate, Milburn is active in the community, working with Habitat for Humanity, education funds and shelters for the homeless.

Milburn can be contacted at 510-524-1700 ext 35 and by e-mail at denise@berkhill.com.

Berkeley Hills Realty has long been recognized as one of the market leaders in East Bay real estate. Founded as Berkeley Realty, the firm has more than 50 years of experience with residential properties in Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Kensington, El Cerrito and Emeryville. For more information, call 510-524-9888 or visit the firm's Web site at www.berkeleyhillsrealty.com.



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A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

"Our Houses" In Alameda

From architecture to windows, the Alameda Museum provides lectures for everyone who loves homes. The slide lectures are narrated by prominent Bay Area authors and historians. The museum is located on Alameda Avenue near Park Street in Alameda. The series begins in February and continues through June. Thursday, Feb. 28 is the date of the first lecture in the series. Alameda Mayor **Ralph Appazo** will open the series. **Woody Minor** is the presenter of "Our Houses: Residential Architecture in Alameda." The two projector slide show will demonstrate trends from the "Gothick" Revival of the 1850s through the Storybook styles of the 1920s. Call 510-748-0796 for information.

Building Classes

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and

daytime classes on the weekends. Feb. 16 through Feb. 23 will offer classes on drywall, painting, solar electricity and drainage problems. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16 and 17 brings "Hardwood Floor Refinishing," a hands-on workshop conducted by **Tim Margetts**. "Landscape Design" is a seminar taught by landscape architect **Kathleen O'Day**, on two consecutive Sundays. For more information on classes and costs call the center. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit the website at bldgduct.org.

Workshop On Tax Savings

American Tax Professionals and American Vision Productions present "Record Keeping STRATEGIES Workshop." The workshop is led by Enrolled Agent, Audit Litigation Specialist, **Paul Kent**. The main focus is on small to medium businesses. The purpose is to educate, inform and involve the taxpayer in the process. Attendees will learn the latest strategies, how to formulate deductions and little known areas inside the tax code that can reduce taxes. The workshop is scheduled for Feb. 27. To find out more or make a reservation call **Allan Huty** at 510-791-8962.

Real Estate Careers

Have you ever wondered about a career in real estate? Want to know what it takes? What type of schooling is involved? How do I prepare for the exam? The answers to your questions are available through the **Noble Fields School of Real Estate**. For more information call the Oakland office at 510-451-7977 or the main office, in San Francisco at 415-956-6169.

Workshops For Everyone

Karen Ward of RE Loan Mortgage in Albany is the facilitator for a variety of workshops for the homebuyer. The "Homebuyer Finance" workshop is a review of the overall loan process and covers loan programs, credit reports and lender guidelines. "Home Buyer Basics" is a workshop for first-time buyers with a soup to nuts overview of all aspects of homebuying. The "Woman To Woman Workshop" educates women on the basic principles of homebuying. Issues and concerns dealing with women are addressed in "womanspeak." For more information and dates of upcoming workshops contact **Ward** at 510-559-4000.

OAR PRESENTS

The Oakland Association of Realtors presents a half day seminar to renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, **Charlie Krackeler**. The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday March 8. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

REALTORS HELP FAMILIES

The National Association of Realtors won the Association Advance America 2002 Award of Excellence for NAR's efforts on behalf of the families of victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The fund collected and distributed more than \$8.19 million to aid the payment of housing costs for families. Donations to the Realtors Housing Relief Fund came from realtors across the country.

Richard Keelin, a former associate professor in the Department of Music at UCLA, is an associate broker at Montclair Better Homes. Contact him for information about listing your property at 510-339-4000 or 510-869-5921.



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

Every dollar was used to make sure the families of victims kept their homes.

INTERNET PORTAL

Realtors are invited to experience www.realtor.org, a new online gateway launched by the National Association of Realtors. It pledges to put the power of the Web at realtors' fingertips. The new site promises to be the premier portal for the real estate community. It features advanced tools and technology and allows for interaction with peers throughout the industry. Realtor.org combines into one information portal and number of existing sites. Check it out.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

Realtor Magazine is seeking nominations for its third annual Good Neighbor Awards. The program recognizes realtors whose commitment to community service has helped make their community a better place. Five winners will be announced in the magazine and honored at the 2002 Realtors Conference & Expo in New Orleans. Award entries must be received by Wednesday, May 1. For more details call 800-874-6500.

GOT SPEAKERY

Kathleen Adams of First American Home Buyers Protection is the 2002 Program Chairperson for the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter. Adams is looking for speakers for the Chapter's monthly meetings. If you are interested in doing a presentation for the group or want to recommend someone, contact Adams at 800-444-9030.

See REID, Page B3

The high cost of moving

Number 282 in a series of true experiences in real estate: a return to May 1999

Recently we were talking to a man who is about to move from Berkeley to the East Coast. We guessed that moving so far must be quite expensive. "As much as \$5,000 to \$6,000 for the moving van?" we asked. Our friend replied that he'd only gotten one bid so far, but it had knocked his socks off: \$11,600!

We were astounded. Almost \$12,000! That's a lot of money to move what seems to us not a great deal of belongings. We asked if the price includes moving the two cars he and his partner own. It doesn't. They're driving the cars themselves.

We asked our friend what he was going to do. He doesn't know yet; he's still in shock. He'll get more bids, he'll think, and he and his partner will decide what they can leave behind. Wondering if this moving van cost was typical, I called my friend Dana who, just last month, moved from Oregon to San Antonio. Dana and her husband have made six long-distance moves in the past 10 years, the last three with their young daughter.

Dana didn't find our friend's moving estimate surprising. On one of Dana's moves, this one from New Jersey to California a few years back, the estimate was \$11,000 but the final bill was \$19,000! "Very poorly bid," was Dana's remark.

It is true that Dana and family do have a lot of stuff. She told me that on their first cross-country move, they had about 85 cartons. This number grew to the 190 cartons moved most recently. "You know me," Dana



TARPOFF AND TALIA
True Experiences

laughed. "I'm always complaining. These days it takes a great deal to get us to a new place." "Your friend needs a pre-anteed bid," she went on. "We had to pay \$3,500 out of our own pocket for a move the estimate was low on. It upset me. But with a guarantee if the company blows it, their problem."

All of these moves are because Dana's husband changed jobs. Each time a new employer offered a raise or allowance. Sometimes there was enough money to pay for the family to visit the new place to look for housing and to have all their belongings packed and shipped (even then they then to fly the family to the home. But on other occasions the allowance wasn't enough to cover everything.

The family drove one car to San Antonio, for instance, in part because it was too expensive to ship. They had two cats there. When Dana's cats were smaller, they were used to travel in carriers under the airplane seats. Dana's cats are too large for carriers and must instead fly in the cargo compartment.

Animals cannot fly in the cargo compartment if the temperature is too hot or too cold for them so, depending on

See TARPOFF, Page B3

Keeling

FROM PAGE B1

twice as many listings for them to choose from. They'll be able to pick and choose between many properties in March and April, and they'll be in a better position to negotiate. Generally speaking, an abundance of listings means lower prices and less favorable terms for sellers, so waiting until spring could really be a mistake this year.

Another reason why the strategy might backfire is less obvious but equally important: If the economy does make significant gains in 2002, the most likely corollary is that interest rates would be moved higher. Although (longterm) mortgage interest rates did not always get lowered when short-term rates went down last year, they would almost certainly be raised when the opposite occurs.

When mortgage interest rates are increased, this means that fewer buyers will qualify for loans in any given price range. For example, the principal and interest payment on a \$300,000 loan at 6.5 percent is about \$1,896 per month, but the same \$300,000 loan at 7.5 percent would require a payment of about

\$2,098 per month. At 8.5 percent the payment would be \$2,307 per month, and in order to qualify the borrower would need an annual income about \$14,800 higher than the same borrower at 6.5 percent interest.

Ironically as it might seem, this means that an economic boom in 2002 might actually reduce the number of buyers who qualify for financing to purchase your home later in the year. Thus, in the worst-case scenario there might not only be more homes on the market but also fewer buyers, a situation which would certainly result in lower sale prices.

These figures are exaggerated to make a point, and none of us really expects mortgage interest rates to go up so dramatically in the near future. However, this does clearly indicate that homeowners who seriously intend to sell their properties in the near future are likely to be mistaken if they expect to get more for their properties in March or April than they would right now.

Richard Keelin, a former associate professor in the Department of Music at UCLA, is an associate broker at Montclair Better Homes. Contact him for information about listing your property at 510-339-4000 or 510-869-5921.

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Tarpoff

FROM PAGE B2

Earlier, there have been times when the pets traveled on a different way than the family. Before flying, the cats must have a certificate of health from a vet. Dana had hired a company called Cal-Cats, which picks the cats from their carriers for them, gets them to the airport, and later, delivers them to the new house. "Fantastic," according to Dana. "So, tell me now the whole process goes," I asked. "There are what she told me. Usually people get three bids from moving companies. Naturally, the employer prefers the lowest bid, but if, like Dana, the employer has had experience with different moving companies, she has found one decidedly better than the others. "You negotiate your bid is higher than the others, but I really want to use them. Sometimes they'll lower the bid." The bid is stated in number of dollars that the estimator thinks

will be required for the move. But the load weight and the cubic feet of van space are also considered. "If you have, for example, a grand piano," Dana told me, "the cost for moving it will be higher than for some other types of goods because in order to avoid damage, nothing can be stacked on top of it. It's the same with cars."

Costs include packing materials and packers. "You can pack yourself, but then you are responsible for any breakage." The packers pack absolutely everything. After one move, Dana smelled something funny coming from the boxes that had just been delivered. Investigation revealed that the packers had neatly wrapped and brought the kitchen garbage.

Dana preps the house she is leaving before the packers arrive. She cleans house, wiping down woodwork, washing windows, removing all the pictures from the walls and spackling holes. This way, after everything is boxed up, she has little cleaning left to do.

She winds up lamp cords and takes down curtains and rods. She bundles things like her

spices together in plastic bags so the packers will wrap the whole bag rather than each individual bottle. "Less paper, less weight," she points out. She establishes a place in the house for things she'll be carrying with her: a telephone and answering machine, alarm clock, nightlight for her little girl, cat food and litter box for the cats. Also, bills and important papers.

Usually the packing is done on one day and the loading the next. During the loading, Dana herself packs the bedding and towels, runs a vacuum, and boxes the last of the cleaning supplies before the family leaves. On this latest move, Dana took along most of the food from her pantry. "I don't usually take my canned goods because they're so heavy."

But you can't take anything flammable — butane for the BBQ, some kinds of cleaning products — and, of course, no perishables can go, so restocking gets expensive. This time I brought everything I could and even so, we spent \$285 on our first trip to the grocery store.

The total cost of the move to Texas last month was around \$30,000. About half of that was for the moving company and the balance covered plane tickets for pre-move visits, the cost of driving one car to Texas, and food and lodging in San Antonio for 3 weeks until the new house was available to move into.

Licensed Tarpoff and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at patanet@lmi.net or by phone at 410-653-2050.

What are the risks of buying before selling?



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

Paying for two mortgages and a swing loan could become quite costly. An energetic young entrepreneur made lots of money in real estate during the late 1970's by buying fixer-uppers and renovating them.

His strategy was to buy a tired-looking cosmetic fixer and move in to it for a couple of years while he completed the transformation. When the work was done, he'd sell for a significant profit, find his next project and repeat the process again and again.

This no-brainer plan worked wonders for years until the recession of 1980. Mortgage interest rates shot up to 18 percent and home sales slowed to a virtual standstill.

Not daunted by the prospect of a slower market, this entrepreneur bought a project house in 1981 before selling the home he'd just finished renovating.

After months of marketing his masterpiece, with no nibbles, he found himself in a financial bind. He was supporting two home mortgages and incurring renovation costs at the same time.

Ultimately, he was forced to put the home he'd just purchased on the market. Unfortunately, this house sold before the one he really wanted to sell. Not only did he fail to achieve his goal, he was set back financially.

Perhaps you're thinking this would never happen to you. If you're prudent and cautious, it

won't. However, this situation is not all that uncommon, particularly in a transitional market like the one we're experiencing now.

A Berkeley homeowner thought she'd cash in on the huge appreciation she'd earned on her home during the late 1980s. She decided it was time to sell the big family home, which no longer suited her lifestyle anyway.

Her mortgage broker approved her for a swing loan so that she could buy the townhouse she desired before selling the family home that she'd owned for years.

She bought the townhouse and put her home on the market. Unfortunately, the market for her home softened, and she was unable to sell for a price that would allow her to pay off her mortgage on the big house and pay back the swing loan. She ended up putting the townhouse on the market, which sold quickly. Not only was she unable to make the move, she lost about \$50,000 in the process.

REPEAT-HOME BUYER TIP: It's risky to buy a new home before selling the old one in a softening real estate market. If prices drop between the time you buy and the time your home is ready to go on the market, you might have to dip into savings to make up the shortfall. Or you might have to sell other assets, or sell the home you just purchased, as in the examples above.

A market slowdown could mean that it will take far longer to sell your home than you'd planned. If you're paying for two mortgages and a swing, or interim, loan, this could become quite costly.

An option for some who buy before selling is to rent out the old home if it doesn't sell within a

It's risky to buy a new home before selling the old one in a softening real estate market. If prices drop between the time you buy and the time your home is ready to go on the market, you might have to dip into savings to make up the shortfall.

reasonable time. If your mortgage on that property is low enough, you might even generate a cash flow. But, you may jeopardize your capital gain tax exemption (\$250,000 for single tax-filers and \$500,000 for married couples).

This exemption is available only to homeowners who resided in the property for two of the five years preceding the sale. Consult with a tax-adviser before considering this strategy.

THE CLOSING: Another concern is that tenant-occupied property can be difficult to sell unless the tenants are cooperative. You might have to incur fix-up expenses before you re-market the property.

Dian Hymer is author of "Starting Out, the Complete Home Buyer's Guide," Chronicle Books. She is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office. She can be reached at 510-339-4777.

Reid

FROM PAGE B2

HORSE RACES

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter is co-sponsoring their annual "Day At The Races." The event is planned for Wednesday, March 20 at the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a buffet beginning at noon. Post time for the first race is 12:45 p.m. and the last race at 4:30 p.m. The "Day At The Races" is held in conjunction with the San Francisco and Contra Costa Chapters. Reservations are a must. Contact the Jacobson of Pacific Union at 415-333-6460 x 309.

WORK AT ARPB BREAKFAST

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARP) holds a network breakfast on the third Wednesday of every month. This month's breakfast is from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Feb. 20. The Oak Tree Grille in Embarcadero in Oakland is the location. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is free. For more information call Trone Cossey of Fidelity National at 510-893-8100.

BAR LUNCHEON

Attend the Berkeley Association of Realtors monthly, networking luncheon. The next luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20. The luncheon is held at the BAR Auditorium. Reservations are a must. Contact Don Clark at the BAR office for information and reservations at 510-848-4288.

MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

Attention Mortgage Professionals: Learning more about an industry is as important as being a part of that industry. The California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL) and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMP) invite to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. We have monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers discussing timely topics. CARL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6:00 p.m. Networking also kicks off each CAMP meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month.

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WHAT'S UP DOC??

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Lessons from Havana: looking beyond the capital city

Part three: beyond Havana
It surprises many Americans to learn that Cuba is one of the largest islands in the world, and the largest one in the Western Hemisphere. From its western tip to its eastern end, it is 850 miles long, or nearly the same as the distance from San Francisco to Seattle. I had the opportunity to see the rest of Cuba beyond Havana when I took a rental car for a week-long journey across the island during the early part of January this year.

There are no American style freeways in Cuba, or at least not the same kind of perfectly maintained superhighways we are used to in California. There is a multi-lane national highway that cuts across the middle of the island known as the Autopista. But it has some rough spots, including an occasional pothole, and sections that end abruptly in the bushes, requiring those who veered off onto them unwittingly to back their cars up to rejoin the main highway.

The closest major historic city to Havana is Cienfuegos, about 160 miles to the southeast. Nicknamed "The Pearl of the South", Cienfuegos lies at the mouth of a small sheltered bay on the southern coast of Cuba. This charming city was founded in 1819 by French immigrants who had escaped the slave rebellion on the nearby island of Haiti. It therefore has the atmosphere of an Old World town on the southern coast of France.

Cienfuegos has a couple of architectural features in common with Havana. It has a tree-shaded central avenue called the Prado. And it has an attractive pedestrian walkway behind a sea wall called the Malecon. But there the similarities stop. Cienfuegos is a much smaller, calmer, and more peaceful place than the frenetic capital city to the west. Thus its 110,000 inhabitants enjoy a graceful, elegant ambience that permeates the cities narrow streets in the historic quarter that are lined by nineteenth century houses and churches.

The main square is called Parque Marti, after the beloved leader of the 1895 Cuban Revolution against Spanish rule. Jose Marti (who also wrote the all words to the famous Cuban patriotic song "Guantanamera"). This spacious square has the feel of a small town on the East Coast, dotted with benches and shaded walkways, and featuring a gazebo in the center with a heroic statue of Jose Marti next to it. There is a fine, Spanish Colonial style Cathedral at one corner of the park, and the recently restored ornate French Art Nouveau style Teatro Terry (or theater) built in 1887 along one side.

Fifty miles to the east of Cienfuegos is the polished gem of all Spanish Colonial towns in Cuba;

Trinidad. This perfectly preserved historic treasure was designated by the United Nations in 1988 as a UNESCO World Heritage site, to bring attention and a degree of protection to its rich architectural heritage. After that, the Cuban government began to restore many of its most important older buildings. Today, the 52,000 inhabitants of this lovely town play host to tourists from all over the world.

Trinidad, (which took its name from the Holy Trinity of the Catholic faith) was founded in 1514 as one of the original seven Spanish villas created by the conquistador Diego Velasquez (not to be confused with the 17th. Century Spanish painter of the same name). It began its history as a center of the sugar industry, which was created from the back-breaking labor of African slaves.

As is the case with all of the towns and cities of Cuba, the population of Trinidad today reflects its multi cultural roots: black African, white Spanish, and those of mixed race, or mulatto. From everything I have observed during my three trips to Cuba, I can honestly say that one of the most refreshing things about Cuban society is the almost total lack of any racial tension there.

The central square in Trinidad is called the Plaza Mayor, which is one of the most photographed, and photogenic sights in all of Cuba. The parish church at one end of the plaza was rebuilt in the early nineteenth century, and it has the very unusual feature of containing five naves within its walls. Sitting at the opposite end of the square, perched within the wrought iron railings that line the plaza, are two life-sized cast iron dogs sitting facing one another as though they are guarding the entrance until their masters return.

The small scale, one and two story Spanish colonial houses that line the streets of Trinidad are all from the 18th. And 19th. centuries, when the town's income from its sugar plantations made it one of the wealthiest villages in Cuba, (strangely, there are almost no buildings left in Trinidad from its first two centuries). The streets here are mostly paved in the original cobblestones, which contribute to the quaint and intimate atmosphere but

are very hard on one's shoes. The whole town is set against the backdrop of lush, verdant mountains, which ring it on three sides.

The best way to see the historic buildings of Trinidad is from above, by climbing to the top of one of the three observation towers open to the public. I chose to climb the stairs of the Convento San Francisco de Asis, which was begun in the early 1800s and completed in 1813. The top level of this former church tower (now a museum of the history of Fidel Castro's Cuban Revolution) is well over 100 feet above the street.

It has an incredible 2,645-pound bell cast in 1853 in France, and even more incredible views of the red clay roofs and narrow lanes of the old town, where only foot traffic is allowed. From this lofty vantage point, Trinidad reminded me of the hillside towns of Tuscany, such as San Gimignano.

The eastern part of Cuba is called Oriente. It was in this mountainous region that Fidel Castro began his revolution in 1956 which eventually led to the overthrow of the dictator Fulgencio Batista. Near the eastern end of the island is the picturesque and very historic city of Santiago de Cuba. Currently Cuba's second largest city, with nearly 450,000 inhabitants, Santiago was the original capital of the old Spanish colony. Like Trinidad, it was founded as one of the original seven villas in 1514 by Diego Velasquez. Its ideal position at the head of the large sheltered bay helped the city to grow quickly as a center of colonial trade and commerce.

The main plaza of Santiago, Parque Cespedes, retains much of the historic charm of its heyday in the days of the Spanish kings. Looming above one end of the square is the ornate Spanish Baroque Revival Cathedral, which was originally founded in 1522. The current church was reconstructed after being damaged by several earthquakes, and was not completed until 1922. It has a magnificent coffered ceiling and carved wood choir stalls. In February of 1998, during his historic visit to Cuba, Pope John Paul II celebrated a reconciliation mass here.

On the opposite end of Parque

Cespedes is the old City Hall of Santiago de Cuba, which was built in the early 20th. Century in Spanish Colonial Revival style, complete with a Mission style loggia and a projecting balustraded balcony. On another corner of the square is the elegant and fabled Hotel Casa Grande, built in the 1920s in French Beaux Arts style. Graham Green's novel "Our Man in Havana" described it in the 1950s as being "a hotel full of real spies, real police informers, and real rebel allies."

But by far the most interesting building on the Parque Cespedes is the Casa de Diego Velasquez. This is definitely the oldest European house in the Western Hemisphere. The oldest section was built in 1516 by Velasquez, the first Spanish governor of Cuba.

From here he directed the settling of the interior of Cuba, and ordered the enslavement of the remaining indigenous population (the native Cuban Indians were so decimated by the hard labor and diseases they endured under the Spanish that they were completely wiped out before the middles of the 16th century).

The Casa de Velasquez today is a museum of early Spanish Colonial history. It retains all of its original, ornate 16th. century features, making it unique among historic houses in North America. The open beamed ceilings are made of carved cedar with Moorish style carved patterns, and are shaped like a ship's hull. There is a partition across the middle of the main room with Tudor style curtain molding (this house was built when Henry VIII was a young man)

In one corner on the floor of the bedroom is an Arabic style bed, and Velasquez's helmet in the other corner. The most remarkable feature is the central courtyard, with its Mudjar, or Moorish style wooden screens across the second story windows, and arches surrounding a long narrow patio with a fountain in the middle. It was reminiscent of

the Courtyard of Loins in the Alhambra Palace in Grenada Spain.

Several miles outside the city limits of Santiago de Cuba, up a long steep hillside, stands the most commanding fortress on the entire island. The Castillo del Morro (or El Morro, as all fortresses are called in Cuba) was finished in 1837 to protect the harbor and prosperous city below from raids by pirates and foreign warships. It is magnificently preserved as a museum today.

The views from its battlements are absolutely spectacular, looking out over the rugged, mountain-rimmed, mist-shrouded Caribbean coast line of southeastern Cuba. Here the natural beauty is totally unspoiled by any development or pollution, as it resembled the coastline of California around Mendocino without all the signs and tourist motels.

As I watched a gorgeous sunset from this incredible vantage point, I thought of how ironic it was that just 50 miles away at the US

Marine base in Guantanamo, the captured Taliban prisoners America's successful Afghanistan were being held for questioning about future terrorist attacks.

All of that darkness seemed a million miles away in this tranquil setting. It was full then for the opportunity to explore this exotically beautiful historic island, a place which we here in America learn some unexpected valuable lessons.

Mark A. Wilson is an architectural historian and author of the book "The Architecture of the American West." He can be reached at 273-9383. Visit him at www.mker.com/wilson

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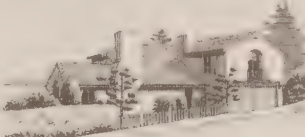
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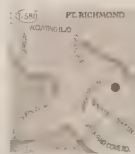
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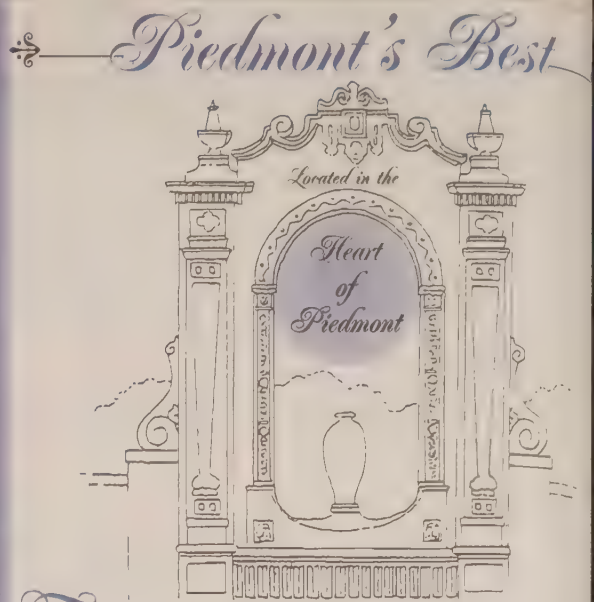
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MONTCLAIR-OAKLAND HILLS.....\$119,000
3 contiguous lots. Buy 1, 2, or all. Upslopes, utilities at front of lots. Design review approved building. Soil report avail. Financing avail. Area of high-end new homes.
Frank Hennefer 650-455-1111

TAHOE LISTINGS

RADIANT "OLD TAHOE" JEWEL.....\$1,799,000
Impeccably renovated & rebuilt to take you back in time resplendent in Martha Stewart style circa 1930s, this matchless home is being sold mostly furnished, ready to turn the key. Panoramic lake views from most rooms, massive stone fireplace. Deep 1/2 acre lot.
Jim Plumbidge 800-858-5858

TAHOE TAVERN.....\$675,000
Delightful garden unit with private fenced, landscaped yard. Popular floor plan offers 3 bedrooms, BA, and a stone fireplace. This well managed complex is ideally located near town, shopping, restaurants, shopping.
Pat Lucas 800-858-5858

CRISP AND FRESH.....\$598,000
Newly refurbished mountain home with beautiful taste and quality. River rock fireplace, cozy, friendly atmosphere of the living room with new open kitchen & dining. 3BD plus sleeping loft, fenced yard makes this an ideal vacation or family home.
Jim Plumbidge 800-858-5858

UNIQUE MOUNTAIN HOME.....\$600,000
A unique design makes this home special. Relax in front of the fireplace w/cozy bath, 4BD/2BA, loft & large deck. Nestled in the pine trees on a cul-de-sac street of wonderful views.
Karen Crane 800-858-5858

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND
531-7000

LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Vacation Rentals/Sales
WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484 www.wellsandbennett.com

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By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$134,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$760,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$397,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$395,133

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$360,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$495,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$427,500

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST PRICE: \$169,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,005,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$537,583

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$359,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$418,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$387,750

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7

LOWEST PRICE: \$151,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$479,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$395,286

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$162,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$275,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$218,750

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 82
LOWEST PRICE: \$77,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,472,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$346,238

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$490,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,237,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$870,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$865,833

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 31
LOWEST PRICE: \$85,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$280,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$329,387

SAN LUIS OBISPO

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$126,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$500,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$302,481

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 14
LOWEST PRICE: \$254,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$355,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$312,071

This list is provided by California Resource 510-568-7233 a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com.

Don't miss the Open Homes Guide on page B12

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NEW LISTING! Gracious Monterey Colonial Open Sunday • February 17 • 2-4:30



1345 QUEENS ROAD, BERKELEY

Spacious, light filled 5+BR/3BA home with wonderful Bay views. Lovely architectural details, recently updated, large double lot with gardens and level spaces for outdoor enjoyment.

Offered at \$995,000



Leslie Avant
Senior Sales Associate
Bus: (510) 339-6460 x341
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★Indicates Homes Being Held Open OAKLAND/PIEDMONT



Montclair \$729,000
Contemporary 3BR/2+BA, wraparound deck with huge canyon views, vaulted ceilings, fireplace. Minutes from Montclair Village, easy commute to SF.
Colette Ford
(510) 845-0211

Designer Showcase! \$725,000
Magnificent historical 5+BR, 2.5BA craftsman. Located in the Oakland Rose Garden Dist.
Hope Broderick
(510) 339-9290



Coming Soon! \$695,000
Stately English Tudor residence in Trestle Glen. Classic entry & formal rooms, 2BR + 700 sq. ft. finished attic.
Dolores Thom
(510) 763-1710
(510) 834-2010

★ Open Sun 2-5 \$649,000
401 Hiller Drive. Elegant townhome in Hiller Highlands offering style and convenience. Fabulous 3BR/2.5BA.
Ivan & Michael
(510) 597-1303
(510) 527-9800

Parkridge Estates \$589,000
Picture postcard view from this lovely 4BR/2.5BA w/master suite and deck.
Herb Manor
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$545,000
3692 Calafia. Beautiful new construction with 3+BR/2.5BA exhibits quality throughout.
Sharon Ho
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$519,000
3430 Davis St. What you dream about! Renovated Victorian on nearly 1/2 acre w/creek and craftsman cottage.
Roxanne Bruns/Liz Stevens
(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$495,000
4036 Everett. Glenview 4+BR/1.5BA charmer w/ sparkling hwd. fir. and serene private yard.
Hope Broderick
(510) 339-9290

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT



Space, Vu, Charm Too! \$439,000
3BR + family room + sun room, enclosed yard, view across back.
Lois Harris
(510) 287-2521
(510) 834-2010

Dramatic Loft \$407,000
2BR, 1BA, 16 ft. ceiling, Jack London Sq. near the fun stuff and commutes. Tasteful historic portico.
Camille Rogers
(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$350,000
4025 Mera St., Oakland. New Listing! 3BR, 2BA, HWF, built-ins, lg. kitchen w/nook, patio, more!
Logene Butler
(510) 524-2526

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$250,000
730 - 29th Street. Spacious, bright 1BR/1BA loft in unique bldg. w/secure parking.
Nanine Watson
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$220,000
2826 Frazier. Charming Mediterranean. 2BR/1BA bungalow. Great area near 580, fresh paint, updated kit/bath, fruit trees.
Latarsha Banks
(510) 834-2010

★ Open Sun 1-4 \$195,000
3724 Suter St. 1BR+, entry, nook, dining, frplc., bonus art studio, remod. kit., custom cabs., deck, garden, prking.
Arthur White
(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sat 1-3 \$190,000
3247 Deering St. Last fixer on the block. Cute 1+BR/1BA Mediterranean w/yard & det. garage.
Roxanne Bruns
(510) 869-5609

ALAMEDA

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$355,000
1414 Hoover Court. Craftsman Home. Adorable 2BR, 1BA. Fireplace & hot tub on cul-de-sac.
Allison Austin
(510) 337-8670

CASTRO VALLEY

Super Motivated! \$550,000
Great Castro Valley 6BR/3BA home w/big mstr. suite in good neighborhood.
Craig Shane
(510) 339-9290

BERKELEY/ALBANY

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$599,950
1589 Scenic. Close to U.C. Campus! 2+BR, remod. kitchen, pvt. deck, non-CFM in-law unit, much more!
Terrence Jue
(510) 524-2526

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Berkeley Live/Work \$539,000
Hi-tech elegance, 3 levels, security, full of light.
N. Platford
(510) 845-0211

★ Open 2-4:30 \$389,000
1253 Hearst Ave. Charming & immac. starter! 2BR/1BA, hrdwd., remodeled, lovely yard, fabulous location. Walk to BART.
Janet Kaplan
(510) 845-0200

Desirable Albany Location! \$369,000
Coming soon! 2+BR, 1.5BA home substantially remodeled 6 yrs. ago. Walk to Solano shops and cafés, El Cerrito Plaza & Albany schools.
Wendy Louie
(510) 273-9306
(510) 849-3711

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Contemporary Bayview \$525,000
4BR, 3BA, nice hwd. floors, great view from living room and wraparound deck. Great for entertaining!
Luisa
(510) 845-0211

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$379,000
7815 Potrero. El Cerrito charmer. 3BR, 2BA, pest report clear, pvt. garden from mstr. BR, more!
Terrence Jue
(510) 524-2526

Lovely Country Home \$330,000
This updated 3+BR home is located on the edge of Wildcat Canyon Park yet minutes to freeway access. Fireplace in living room, updated tile kitchen, two full baths, hardwood floors and new carpet. The downstairs offers a plus room and garage.
Carol Heath-Kim
(510) 527-9800

COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT

Unique Property! \$379,000
Mixed use in Richmond. 2 res. units & 2 comm. units. Rare find!
Logene Butler
(510) 524-2526

LOTS FOR SALE

Large Corner Lot \$389,000
Fruitvale District, near BART, shopping, 350 ft. frontage. Call (510) 986-9544 for details.
Dena Dorsey
(510) 845-0211

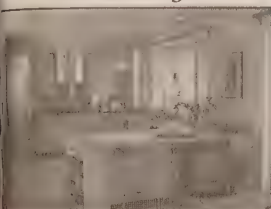
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CALL KAREN
800-499-5551

Open February 10, 2002 1:00-4:00 pm

New Listing!



Happy Valley mid-century one level with avant-garde flair set on approximately 1 acre. An innovative blend of timeless materials into a flowing, flexible floor plan that remains relevant for the millennium lifestyle. Thick plate glass and plaster walls, terrazzo floors, see-thru brick fireplaces, mirrored walls as structural accents. Rectangular shaped swimming pool in a secluded courtyard. Four + bedrooms, three full and two half baths, separate guesthouse, gourmet kitchen, office, family room and loggia.

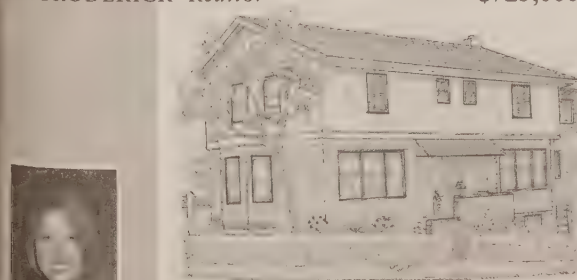
4012 Tilden Lane ~ Lafayette ~
Offered at \$1,195,000

Nancy Rothman
Office (510) 339-2169 ext. 209
Residence (510) 654-6878
nrothman@pacunion.com



HOPE BRODERICK Realtor

\$725,000



176 Santa Rosa

Magnificent Craftsmen Masterpiece
Designer Showcase - Gourmet Kitchen
Beautiful 5+BR/2.5 BA
Walk to Rose Garden By Appointment

Montclair Better Homes Realty



Fabulous Bay Views Throughout - Seeing is Believing!

3 Bedroom, 3 Bath

6000 Grizzly Peak Boulevard

Laurel Strand
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ALAMEDA 510-337-8670	ALBANY 510-524-2526	BERKELEY 510-845-0200	BERKELEY NORTH 510-849-3711	CLAREMONT 510-845-0211
EL CERRITO 510-527-9800	GRAND LAKE 510-834-2010	KENSINGTON 510-526-5143	MONTCLAIR 510-339-9290	PIEDMONT 510-428-0900

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Open Sunday, February 17th 2-4:30



1915 Hoover Avenue, Oakland

Lovely Oakmore home with a view - 3+bedrooms, study, 3 baths. Includes a garden level au-pair suite.

\$610,000

Celia Concus

510.527.0211



The GRUBB Co.

COMING SOON



Oakland Hills - Tuscan Villa

Offered for pre-sale at \$1,100,000

JILL CARRIGAN
OFFICE: 510.339.0400/328
email: jcarrigan@grubbco.com

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BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

510.524.9000
www.berkhill.com

Open Homes: Sunday 2-4 pm

38 Senior, Berkeley. Just Listed!

Rare Offering! Traditional family home, new in 1996. Top quality. Open, flowing, sun-lit spaces. Living, dining open to tiled terrace and lovely, filtered San Francisco Bay views. Guest bath. Handsome gourmet kitchen with granite counters, eating area, opens to family room with 2nd fireplace. French doors to patio and terraced garden, ringed with lovely pines. Upstairs 4 bedroom, 2 baths including master suite with Jacuzzi tub. Offered at \$875,000. Nancy Mueller, x20



777 Cragmont Ave., Berkeley. Open 2-4:30 pm

Enjoy being close to all the pleasures of the Gourmet Ghetto, the U.C. Campus, and quick access to transportation. Bay views from the enormous living/dining room combination with fireplace. Two bedrooms, one with French doors to the terraced back garden and patio. Two full bathrooms upstairs. Plus room, laundry area and half bath with internal access from the one car garage. Newly refinished oak floors. Freshly painted. Offered at \$495,000. Arlene Baxter, x19



280 Caldecott Lane, #103, Oakland.

Beautiful Montclair 2 bedroom, 2 bath with hardwood floors. Many upgrades including custom kitchen cabinets and lots more! Great new complex with excellent amenities—including pool, sauna, hot tub, gym, security, and express bus to SF and BART. Offered at \$340,000 Denise Milburn, x35

1519 Oxford, Berkeley. Just Listed!

A rare opportunity! Sunny, spacious, quiet top unit with no shared walls. Well-maintained cooperative building. Close to U.C., public transportation and all the amenities of North Berkeley. Gorgeous stained glass window in dining room. Living room with fireplace and bookcases. Kitchen with tiled counters. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Offered at \$385,000. Maya Trilling, x18

Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Kensington, Oakland, Piedmont, Richmond and beyond

NEW PIEDMONT LISTING!

Open Sunday • February 17 • 2-4:30



1671 GRAND AVENUE, PIEDMONT

FABULOUS FIXER OPPORTUNITY!
High ceilings, crown moldings, in-laid hardwood floors, wainscoting stained/leaded glass! Large kitchen opens level to patio and sunny yard

Offered at \$575,000



Leslie Gordon
Senior Sales Associate
(510) 339-6400 x327
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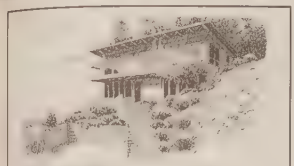
When it's your move...



DIAMOND ANNEX 5717 Huntington Ave. **\$309,000**
 A new design! Charming two bedroom home on a great street in a very
 neighborhood. Sunny and bright with a large backyard. You'll love the breakfast
 room. Sun. 2-4, Joan Underwood (510) 559-2911



DIAMOND ANNEX 5815 Highland Ave. **\$309,000**
 A comfortable home features a spacious kitchen, central heat, fireplace, hardwood
 floors, a large deck, attached garage with interior access, waterfall & hot pond in
 the back. Sun. 2-4, Rosita Thornton (510) 559-2901



BERKELEY 3444 Dwight Way **\$639,000**
 A 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with stunning pano. views! Master suite w/spa, 2
 car garage. Includes adjacent lot for privacy or expansion. Exquisite!
 Sun. 2-5, Luane Warner (510) 527-200x29

DIAMOND VIEW 5521 Clinton Ave. **\$319,000**
 A newly updated 2 BR home. Move-in condition, newer roof & furnace,
 hardwood floors. Updated kitchen - some Bayview - attached garage. wonderful
 Sun. 2-4, Dee Phinick (510) 559-2933

7502 Fairmount Ave. **1577 Solano Ave.**
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 Last wk 6.750
 This wk 6.750

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A Better Mortgage 800-432-0424 DRE#01242793	30-yr Fixed 6.625 ... 0.000 6.810 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.875 ... 0.000 6.990 ... 30		15-yr Fixed 6.125 ... 0.000 6.320 ... 30		Open Weekends. Credit Problems OK! 2nd Mtgs. No equity required. www.capitalvalleymortgage.com
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE#01096146	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 2.000 6.514 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.500 ... 2.000 6.720 ... 30		15-yr Fixed 5.825 ... 2.000 6.018 ... 30		PURCHASE OR REFINANCE BAD CREDIT & B.K. PROGRAMS CALL RIGHT NOW!
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE#00892884	30-yr Fixed* 6.750 ... 0.000 6.825 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo* 6.875 ... 0.000 6.935 ... 30		Special**		*Prepay+other restrictions may apply. **\$850K amt. 5/8mo ARM 6.000% 0 pts 0 fee 4.570% 3/8mo ARM 5.500% 0 pts 0 fee 4.830%
A-Olympic Funding-Best Rate 800-640-5588 DRE#01197415	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 2.000 6.360 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.500 ... 2.000 6.710 ... 30		15-Yr Fixed 5.625 ... 2.000 5.740 ... 30		Open 7 days 9 - 5 Apply 24/7 www.ofreloans.com Pleasanton office at the Raley's Center
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE#00874441	30-yr Fixed 6.500 ... 1.000 6.690 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.750 ... 1.000 6.940 ... 30		5/1 Jumbo ARM 6.000 ... 1.000 6.190 ... 30		Interest Rates are on the move daily. Call Today for the Lowest Rates + Fees. Rates are Lowest in 7 yrs. Submit applic.+ get pre-approved.
CMG Mortgage 800-958-5339 DRE#01170028	30-yr Fixed 6.500 ... 1.000 6.665 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.750 ... 1.000 6.877 ... 30		5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.875 ... 1.000 5.996 ... 30		Open Saturday. + Sunday. Quik Qualifier and Stated Income option available. Available financing for people with less than perfect credit
Homeward Solutions 800-641-7558 DRE#00921943	30-yr Fixed 6.750 ... 0.000 6.890 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.875 ... 0.500 6.980 ... 30		15-yr Fxd 6.000 ... 0.500 6.300 ... 30		www.finet.com
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE#00887562	30-yr Fixed 6.875 ... 0.000 7.160 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 7.250 ... 0.000 7.530 ... 30		15-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 0.000 6.530 ... 30		Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. All gov't loans, 100% loans credit lines, construction. 20 years of service
Paramount Mortgage 800-372-7266 DRE#00622056	30-yr Fixed 6.375 ... 2.000 6.875 ... 30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.625 ... 2.000 7.125 ... 30		5/1 ARM Jumbo* 6.000 ... 0.000 6.125 ... 45		*Interest only for 1st five years with a 3 yr. prepay up to \$2,500,000
U.S. Mortgage Center 888-224-8762 CFL#507-1204	30-yr Fixed call ...		30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...		15-yr Fixed call ...		Open 7 days a week & holidays. Se habla español FHA/CAL VET & 2nds & Equity Loans Bad credit OK. Debt consolidation experts

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MAZUELA, MONTCLAIR
3BR/2.5BA \$1,150,000
 Construction. Gracious entry &
 open floor plan, soaring ceilings
 rooms, kitchen-family room
 and yard. Open Sunday.
 Call, CRS 510.339.4700



WILMINGTON, CALIFORNIA
3BR/2.5BA \$1,975,000
 Contemporary at end of
 street. Dasher Bay view, pool, spa, 4-
 car garage. Open Sunday.
 Call, CRS 510.339.4700



WEST VALLEY, CALIFORNIA
3BR/2.5BA \$998,000
 Contemporary overlooks Leona
 Lake. 1BR/2.5BA, custom kitchen,
 fireplace & sunroom. Near
 shopping & schools.
 Call, CRS 510.486.1495

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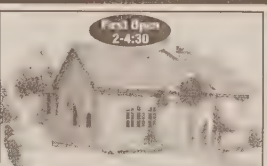
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6845 OAKWOOD DRIVE, MONTCLAIR
\$885,000
 Quality, spacious & elegant! 3BR/2.5BA stunning
 home ideally located close to freeways &
 Montclair shops. Open Sunday.
 Terry Kulka/Lydia Nayo 510.339.4700



NORTH BERKELEY MAYBECK
\$675,000
 Maybeck designed home built in 1895 for Charles
 Keeler was recently converted to 3 condos. One, a
 duplex used as a single residence, the other a
 studio apt. Being sold as a package.
 Kim Marienthal 510-486-1495



1789 BRANDON ST., PIEDMONT AVENUE
\$419,000
 Charming Bungalow. 2BR/1BA, separate dining
 room, kitchen w/appliances, small laundry room,
 detached garage, new landscaping. Open Sunday.
 Norm Robinow 510.339.4700



ROOMS WITH A VIEW
 Spacious home on deep lot w/ mature plantings
 Separate work/stg bldg & a playhouse.
 5BR/1.25BA, 2 fpls, hardwood floors thruout.
 Freshly painted.
 Cheryl Cahn 510-486-1495

FIRST OPEN
5017 KEARNEY AVE., JOAQUIN MILLER \$549,000
 3+BR/2.5BA Sunday 2-4:30 Charming traditional w/formal
 living & dining, HWF, 2 FP, master retreat, sun room,
 storage, att. garage & garden.
 Dell Orr 510.339.4700

6335 MELVILLE, MONTCLAIR \$519,000
 Sunday 2-5 Enjoy the tranquility of this wonderful 3BR/2BA
 home. Soaring ceilings, rumpus room, eat-in kitchen &
 decks. Sharp!
 Nancy Maloney/Jillian Strawn 510.339.4700

85 MAIDEN LANE, LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$425,000
 3BR/2BA Sunday 1-4:30 Fully updated, move-in condition,
 minutes to Montclair, private & fabulous.
 Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

1148 FRANCISCO, BERKELEY \$419,000
 Sunday 2-5 Classic Craftsman, 2+BR/1BA, formal dining
 room, EIK has been updated & opens to spectacular yard.
 Claudia Bowman 510.339.4700

715 Sea View Dr., El Cerrito \$495,000
 Sun 2-4 Spacious view home on deep lot. 5BR/1.25BA, 2
 fpls, hrdwd flrs thruout. Freshly painted.
 Cheryl Cahn 510-486-1495

3701 Cerrito Ave., Richmond \$265,000
 Sun 2-4 Richmond N&E. Spacious 3BR/1.5BA,
 hrdwd flrs. Great location. Sunny & bright home on corner
 lot.
 Maura Allen 510-486-1495

OPEN SUNDAY
32 NEVA COURT \$998,000
 4BR/2.5BA Sunday 2-5 Gorgeous Montclair Traditional designed by Mark Becker, w/level
 yard. Formal dining room, home office + HWF & coved ceilings.
 Joan Alford, MBA 510.339.4700

5364 HILLTOP CRESCENT, UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$575,000
 Sunday 1-4 Delightful Cape Cod! 2BR/1BA -large downstairs room & 2nd bath, FDR, wood
 floors, EIK lovely yard w/level yard, 2-car garage.
 Vicky Faulk 510.339.4700

OPEN SUNDAY
5223 BELVEDERE STREET, MAXWELL PARK \$299,000
 Sunday 2-5 Spacious, one-level Bungalow w/3BR, FDR w/built-in cabinets & wood floors.
 Large, level yard waiting for a gardener's green thumb.
 Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT
MONTCLAIR \$675,000
 4BR/3BA Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random
 plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage.
 Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen 510.339.4700

MORAGA \$439,500
 3BR/2.5BA, Mediterranean-style, spacious townhouse only 15-years-old. Great floorplan,
 large eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, FP, skylights.
 Elena Stone 510.339.4700

OAKLAND \$315,000
 4BR/2BA Large back yard, "fixer/upper". Don't miss it!
 Mahnaz Judson 510.339.4700

RICHMOND \$240,000
 Good starter home. 2BR/1BA. Newer paint in & out, updated bath, newer roof, 5K lot!
 Commute convenience.
 Josh Whitmer 510-486-1495

OAKLAND \$149,000
 1BR/1BA Why rent? Own this sunny, top floor condominium w/deck.
 Donna Conroy 510.339.4700

LOTS
0 EVERGREEN, CLAREMONT \$696,000
 Views facing SF Bay, large level area at bottom of lot.
 David Eckert 510.339.4700

13514 CAMPUS DR. \$395,000
 Design review approved plans. Engineering complete. Beautiful canyon views.
 Fairly level lot.
 David Eckert 510.339.4700

0 BROADWAY, ROCKRIDGE \$299,000
 Over 21,000 sq.ft. w/tentative approval to be subdivided into 3 lots.
 Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700

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Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
621 Paru Open Sunday Nancy Gordon 510-814-4815 Harbor Bay Realty	580/2.5BA	2-4	\$989,000
1338 Bay St Open Sat & Sun, Main Island Mindy Hart 510-523-8886, Kane & Associates	380	2-4	\$895,000
1251 Sherman Open Sunday Denise Brady 510-523-8886, BaySide Real Estate	380d	2-4	\$815,000
122 Purcell Dr. Open Sunday; ON LAGOON Elaine Miller 510-814-4821 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$875,000
1803 Moreland Dr Open Sunday Marcia McKinley 510-814-4827 Harbor Bay Realty	380/1.5BA	Sun 2-4	\$595,000
129 Baseline Open Sunday Nancy Gordon 510-814-4815 Harbor Bay Realty	480/2.5BA	2-4	\$585,000
441 Yorkshore Rd Open Sunday Realty Advocates, Leslie Whiteing 510-789-6119	480/2BA	1-4	\$575,000
3216 Monte Vista Ave Open Sat & Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Patricia Gonnelli 510-749-1139	380/1.5BA	2-4	\$515,000
2 Wexford Place Open Sat & Sun; Harbor Bay Isle Lillian Silva 510-865-6564, Jena Zhu-Hg 510-621-8818 Kane & Associates	380d	2-4	\$488,000
2619 Buena Vista Open Sunday, Main Island John McElroy, Kane & Associates 510-865-6550	380d	2-4	\$475,000
1124 Court St Open Sunday; www.seethrough.com Gallagher & Lindsey, Ruth Kosonen 510-748-1101	280/1BA	2-4	\$429,000
1211 Regent St Open Sunday Russ Grant 510-814-4713 Harbor Bay Realty	380/1BA	2-4	\$419,000
3215 Monte Vista Ave Open Sunday Gallagher & Lindsey, Signe Nelson 510-749-1103	280/1BA	2-4	\$389,500
338 Pacific Ave Open Sunday Denise Gervise 510-814-4871 Harbor Bay Realty	280/2BA	2-4	\$379,000
1078 Melrose Ave Harbor Isle, Open Sun Help-U-Sell Jane Fong 415-987-2182	280/2BA	2-4	\$372,000
1414 Hoover Court Open Sunday Prudential, Allison Austin 510-337-8670	280/1BA	2-4	\$355,000
931 Park St Open Sunday Diana Wynn 510-522-5847 BaySide Real Estate	280d	2-4	\$348,000
938 Park St Open Sunday, Main Island Patrick Ng, Kane & Associates 925-736-7651	280d	2-4	\$325,000
3438 Camarone Lane Open Sat & Sun; Harbor Bay Isle Rich & Renee Thomas 510-522-2918 Kane & Associates	280d	2-4	\$325,000
2834 Adams St Open Sun, Main Island Karen Kellenberger 510-522-4662, Kane & Associates	280	2-4	\$308,000
2105 N. Otis Dr Open Sunday Nina Qum 510-814-4836 Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2:30-4:30	\$308,000
421 Santa Clara Ave Open Sunday, Main Island Alan Gooch, Kane & Associates 510-521-4980	18d	2-4	\$300,000
339 Broadway #101 Open Sunday Gallagher & Lindsey, Bill Blissett 510-749-1108	280/1BA	2-4	\$275,000

ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
824 Hillside RED OAK, 510-280-2116, Fori	280/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$375,000
1345 Queens Rd Pacific Union	6 - 80/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$985,000
2895 Buena Vista Way Pacific Union	4 - 80/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$875,000
3444 Dwight Way Luanne Warner, Martin Gardens, 510-527-2700	380/2.5	Sun 2-5	\$639,000
1589 Scenic Rayne Palmer, Prudential, 510-828-5143	2 + 1BA	Sun 2-4	\$599,950
2430 5th St Nancy Plattford, Prudential, 510-845-0211	1 + - 72.5	Sun 2-4	\$539,000
1148 Francisco OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	2 - 80/1BA	2-5	\$419,000
1535 Scenic #4 RED OAK, 510-280-2175, Schuyler	280/1BA	Sun 2-4	\$389,000
1253 Hearn Ave Janet, Prudential CA Realty, 510-845-0200	280/1BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$388,000
3011 Dohr St Tom Andrus, Prudential, 510-834-2010	280/1BA	Sun 2-4	\$349,000
2221 California St Marilyn Parsley, Thornwell Properties, 510-848-1950	3 - 7BA	Sun 2-4	\$325,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
907/914 Estrella Ct Sandy Chik, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 + 1/2 - 3	Sun 1-4	\$19K
11925 Skyline Blvd. Skyline, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,380,000
1920 Yosemite Rd Pacific Union	5 - 80/4.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$1,300,000
5160 Mazulia Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,150,000
6155 Glenview Dr. Prudential Pines, OPEN SUNDAY, Christian Downer, 510-339-9900	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,095,000
6919 Bristol Dr The Grubb Co.	580/4.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$1,080,000
32 Neva Court Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	480/2.5BA	2-5	\$998,000
6153 Glenview Dr. Prudential Pines, OPEN SUNDAY, D.C. Hodges, 510-331-7667	480/4.5BA	2-4:30	\$995,000
927 Sunnyside Rd Chesley Highlands The Grubb Co.	380/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$938,000
900 Paramount Rd Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co.	480/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$928,000
1834 Laimert Blvd The Grubb Co.	480/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$899,000
6845 Oakwood Dr. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/2.5BA	2-5	\$885,000
6000 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	380/3BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$880,000
6790 Oakwood Dr. Pacific Union	480/4 - 8BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$859,000

CONCORD

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
907/914 Estrella Ct Sandy Chik, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 + 1/2 - 3	Sun 1-4	\$19K

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8765 Terrace Dr RED OAK, 510-280-2113, Pamela	380/2BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$950,000
7815 Potrero Terrence Jue, Prudential, 510-524-2526	380/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$378,000

KENSINGTON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
#2 Franciscan Wy RED OAK, 510-280-2132, Bob	580/4BA	Sun 2-4	\$887,500
37 Highland Blvd Deborah Matthews, Tompkins Lavoretta, 510-652-21 - 134	380/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$675,000
15 Franciscan Wy Luisa Castillo, Prudential, 510-845-0211	480/3BA	Sun 2-4	\$525,000

LAFAYETTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3696 Happy Valley Rd. Open Sunday Caldwell Banker Jerilyn Babington 925-253-4601	680/6BA	1-4	\$2,650,000

MORAGA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1977 Ascot Dr., #6 OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/2.5BA	1-4	\$439,500
614 Alvarado Rd Pacific Union	480/3BA	Sun 2-4	\$1,575,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
13089 Skyline Blvd. Hillcrest Estates, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	680/6BA	2-5	\$1,375,000
614 Alvarado Rd Pacific Union	480/3BA	Sun 2-4	\$1,575,000



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OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7065 Marinborough Kathleen Callahan, Pacific Union	4 - 80/2 -	Sun 2-4:30	\$1,500,000
11925 Skyline Blvd. Skyline, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,380,000
1920 Yosemite Rd Pacific Union	5 - 80/4.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$1,300,000
5160 Mazulia Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,150,000
6155 Glenview Dr. Prudential Pines, OPEN SUNDAY, Christian Downer, 510-339-9900	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,095,000
6919 Bristol Dr The Grubb Co.	580/4.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$1,080,000
32 Neva Court Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	480/2.5BA	2-5	\$998,000
6153 Glenview Dr. Prudential Pines, OPEN SUNDAY, D.C. Hodges, 510-331-7667	480/4.5BA	2-4:30	\$995,000
927 Sunnyside Rd Chesley Highlands The Grubb Co.	380/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$938,000
900 Paramount Rd Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co.	480/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$928,000
1834 Laimert Blvd The Grubb Co.	480/3.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$899,000
6845 Oakwood Dr. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/2.5BA	2-5	\$885,000
6000 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	380/3BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$880,000
6790 Oakwood Dr. Pacific Union	480/4 - 8BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$859,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6620 Chelton Dr Collette Fort, Prudential, 510-845-0211	380/2 -	Sun 2-4:30	\$729,000
5944 Taft Ave. Rockledge, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	380/2BA	2-4:30	\$645,000
8261 Skyline Cir Hillcrest, OPEN SUNDAY, The Grubb Co.	380/2BA	2-4:30	\$625,000
2595 Fruitvale Ave. Fruitvale, 5 units, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	80-BA	11-1	\$699,000
5603 Amy Drive Upper Rockledge Wells & Bennett	280/1.5BA	2-4:30	\$575,000
5364 Hilltop Crescent Upper Rockledge, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	280/1BA	2-4:30	\$575,000
5732 Colton Blvd. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Jody Dworkin, 510-339-9900	380/2BA	2-4:30	\$548,000
5328 Shafter Ave Rockledge Pacific Union	2 - 80/1.2BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$548,000
5017 Kearney Ave. J. Miller, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/2.5BA	2-4:30	\$548,000
3692 Calafia Sharon Ho, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 - 2.5BA	2-4:30	\$545,000
3430 Davis St Roxanne, Prudential California, 510-869-6098	3 - 2 -	Sun 2-4:30	\$518,000
6335 Melville Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/2BA	2-5	\$518,000
4036 Everett Hope Broderick, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	4 - 7.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$485,000
5236 Locksley Ave Rockledge The Grubb Co.	280/2BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$478,000
5956 Montclair Ave Pacific Union	2 - 4 - 1BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$475,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
325-23 49th St RED OAK, 510-280-2138, Diane	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
1 Maggioni Dr Los Harris, Prudential, 510-834-2010	3 - 7 -	Sun 2-4	\$430,000
85 Malden Lane Lincoln Heights, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/2BA	1-4:30	\$425,000
1789 Brandon Piedmont Ave, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/1BA	2-4:30	\$416,000
311 4th St Camille Rogers, Prudential, 510-845-0200	280/1BA	Sun 12-3	\$407,000
8607 Skyline Blvd Rosalee Marshall, Prudential, 510-855-8185	280/1.5BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$399,000
4415 Reinhardt Dr Rockledge, OPEN SUNDAY, Pacific Union	380/1BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$399,000
2901 East 12th St Dora Downey, Prudential, 510-845-0211	Inde	---	\$389,000
4025 Mera St Logene Butler, Prudential, 510-845-0211	380/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$350,000
1369 34th St Open Sat & Sun Kathy Hirsch 510-814-4706 Harbor Bay Realty	1 - 80/1BA	10-4	\$325,000
2049 9th Ave Oakland Pacific Union	380/2BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$319,000
2900 Maxwell Ave Wells & Bennett	280/2BA	2-4:30	\$319,000
5223 Belvedere Lower Maxwell Park, OPEN SUNDAY, Caldwell Banker	380/1BA	2-5	\$298,000
2950 Morcom Ave Wells & Bennett	280/1BA	2-4:30	\$289,000
369 Belmont St #405 Wells & Bennett	280/1.5BA	2-4:30	\$287,000
2456 - 84th Avenue Oakland Wells & Bennett	380/2BA	2-4:30	\$278,000
3416-18 Suter St Wells & Bennett	280/1BA	2-4:30	\$275,000
370 Santa Clara, #1 Grand Lake Anthony Associates	280/1BA	2-4:30	\$269,000
1427 17th St Open Sat & Sun Kathy Hirsch 510-814-4706 Harbor Bay Realty	3 - 80	1.5BA	14
7821 Olive St. OPEN SUNDAY, Jamil Abdullah, 510-418-3150, C21 Heritage R.E.	280/1BA	2-4:30	\$250,000
730 29th St Nanne Watson, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	180/1BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$250,000
303 Adams Street, Unit #104 Adams Point, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	280/2BA	2-4:30	\$245,000
2826 Frazier Ave Latasha Banks, Prudential, 510-834-2300	280/1BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$220,000
3724 Suter St Arthur White, Prudential, 510-845-0200	1 - 1BA	Sat 1-4	\$195,000
3247 Deering Roxanne Bruns, Prudential, 510-869-6098	1 - 1BA	Sat 1-3	\$190,000
1831 Rosedale Ave. Fruitvale, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	180/1BA	2-4:30	\$146,000
2333-2335 7th Ave Pacific Union	180/1BA & 380/1BA	Sun 2-4:30	\$130,000

PIEDMONT

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
518 Hampton Rd Pacific Union	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
504 Blair Ave The Grubb Co.	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
50 Crest Rd The Grubb Co.	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
1871 Grand Ave Pacific Union	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

PINOLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3787 Brazil Ct. OPEN SUNDAY, Mishkin & Associates	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5929 North Arlington Blvd Cynthia Bales, Security Pacific	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
5521 Clinton Ave Don Prudential, 510-845-0211	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

SAN LORENZO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5815 Highland Ave Roxanne Bruns, Prudential	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
6526 Kensington Ave Cynthia Bales, Security Pacific	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
3310 Emerald Ave Michael J. Security Pacific	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

SAN LORENZO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
141 Warwick Ave Broadmoor, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
261 Julius RED OAK, 510-280-2138, Diane	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
14413 Seagate Dr Open Sunday Janice Payne 510-814-4800 Harbor Bay Realty	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

SAN LORENZO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
871 William Dr By Owner, Steven Ray 510-845-0211	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000
938 Soto St Open Sunday Katie Ng, Kane & Associates	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

VALLEJO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
131 Sunrise Way Daisy Tan, Prudential, 510-845-0211	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

WALNUT CREEK

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
370 North Civic Drive Open Sunday Frank M. Iman 925-914-0010	Inde	Sun 2-5	\$474,000

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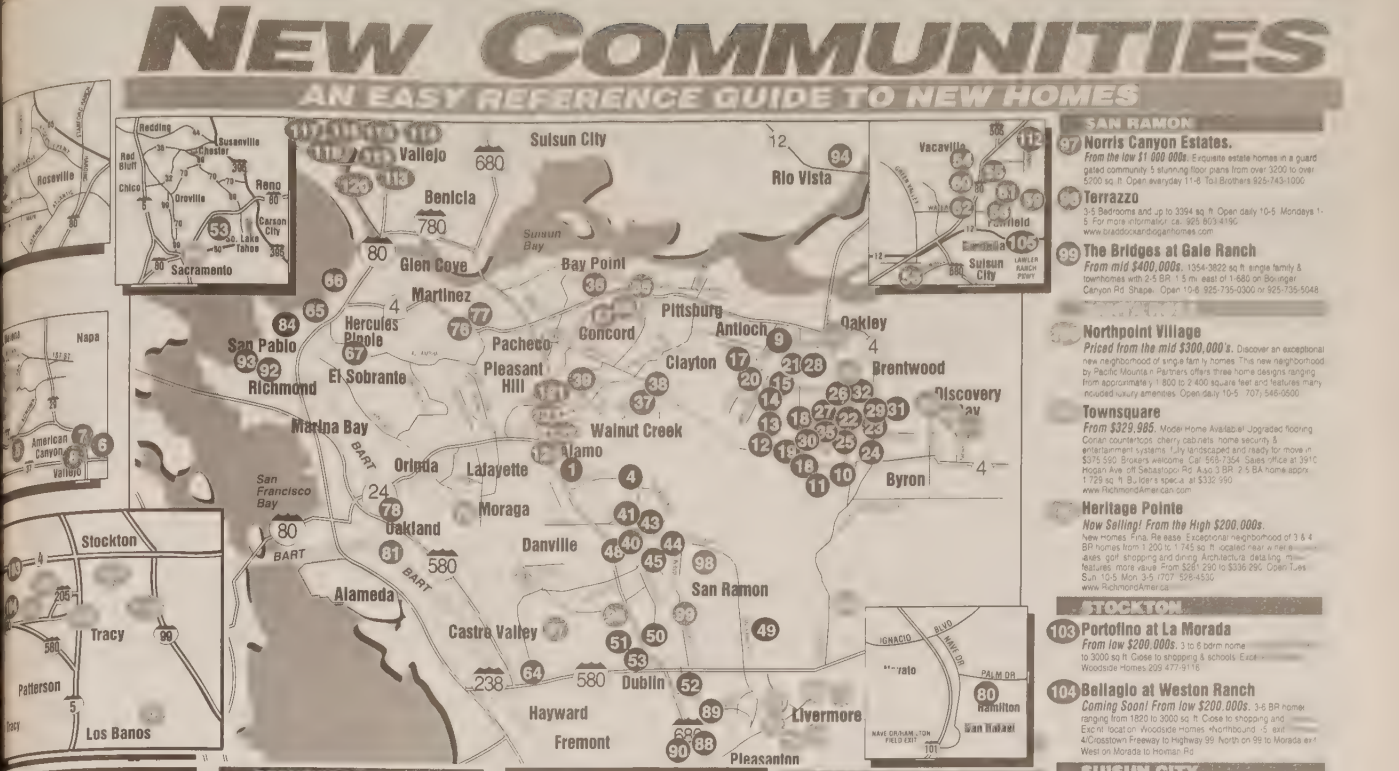
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- Torrance**
3.5 bedrooms and up to 3294 sq. ft. Open daily 10-5 Mondays 1-5. For more information call: 925-903-4190. www.taylorwood.com
- 99 The Bridges at Gale Ranch**
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- Tuscanella at Gabriel Estates**
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- VACAVILLE**
112 Canterfield
From low \$300,000s. 3-4 bedrooms from 2,044 to 4,311 sq. ft. 3 to 4 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 bathrooms, 2 to 3 car garages. Open daily 10-5. Tel 925-459-1553 for more information. Open daily. The Hoffman Company
- Estancia at Hiddenbrooke**
Model Grand Opening! From the mid \$400,000s. 3-4 bedrooms offering single and two story options as well as five bedrooms. Open access to the 580. Open daily from 11-6. Tel 925-832-5155. www.taylorwood.com
- 114 Castello at Hiddenbrooke**
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- Hiddenbrooke**
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- 116 The Knolls at Hiddenbrooke**
From the mid \$300,000s. Prestigious active adult neighborhood nestled in the Hiddenbrooke Valley at the Arnold Palmer designed Hiddenbrooke Golf Community. 2100-2800 sq. ft. and 3 bedrooms with dedicated decks and/or patios. Open daily 10-5. Tel 925-459-1553 for more information. Open daily. The Hoffman Company
- Milano**
From low \$400,000s. Extraordinary neighborhood with 2,757 to 3,135 sq. ft. up to 6 BR + 2 car garages. Open Mon 1-6, Tue 10-5, 3655 Headwater Rd. Tel 925-3878. www.taylorwood.com
- Tiara**
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- 117 The Village**
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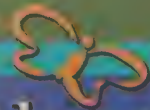
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SPORTS

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Section C

Inside Transparent Theater heads to seaside in production of 'Golden State' [C3]

Inside Complete East Bay movie showtimes [C4]

Berkeley girls, boys move on at NCS

Gucho girls, Panther boys out; Berkeley girls No. 1 Cal High, Berkeley boys at No. 2 Castro Val. Sat. at 7 p.m.

By David Huffman
STAFF WRITER

Eventually, all good things come to an end. For the El Cerrito High School soccer team, the end came Wednesday evening at El Cerrito High and in the first round of the North Coast Section 2A play-offs.

The Gauchos, making their playoff appearance in the ninth year, gave a strong defensive performance, but could not generate enough offense in a 1-0 loss to Borean Christian.

While just didn't get enough offense, El Cerrito coach Robert Sackey said. "We played a really defensive game and the boys played really hard. It just didn't go our way."

The Eagles (15-5) built a 1-0 halftime lead and then held off El Cerrito for most of the second half before putting the game away with a second-half goal.

Whitney Jacobsmeier got started for the Eagles in the 18th minute when she took

a lead pass from Valerie Barnes, out raced a defender to the ball, and sent it into the left corner of the net.

Barnes sealed the victory in the 76th minute when she took a corner kick from Jacobsmeier and headed it through the right corner.

"It was a hard fought game,"

Borean Christian coach Barbara Scoles said. "El Cerrito played a really good defense, but we just kept working hard and eventually we found the net."

The Gauchos (13-5-2) played a strong second half and controlled play after struggling in the first half, but just could not get enough open looks at the net.

El Cerrito ended up with 10 shots on goal, but few serious threats.

Jenna Brace finished with eight saves for El Cerrito.

For the Gauchos, the loss ended an otherwise strong season. The team finished 8-4-2 and in third place in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League, behind only Berkeley and Richmond.

In addition, the team started just five seniors and had eight freshmen and sophomores that saw playing time.

"I'm very pleased with the way things ended up," Sackey said. "I thought we would have a hard time with so much inexperience, but the girls really played well. We're coming back. I can guarantee you we'll be back."

Berkeley 1, Castro Val. 0
The Yellow Jackets' Dea Wallach took a cross from Anne Borton and deposited the ball in the net in the 92nd minute to give Berkeley (16-5) a thrilling double overtime victory over the visiting Trojans.

"It's one of those goals where you don't want to miss it," said Wallach, a freshman midfielder. "We were all really tired. We wanted to score really badly. We wanted this game."

Defenses reigned supreme for most of the 100-minute contest, but fatigue started to set in during the two mandatory 10-minute



ST. MARY'S ANDREW NACKERUD (right) and Piedmont's Mark Lopez went toe-to-toe during their NCS playoff match. Playing at Witter Field in Piedmont on Feb. 13, the Highlanders turned back the Panthers 1-0.

See SOCCER, Page C2

Yellow Jackets make it look easy

Twelve score as Berkeley routs Encinal; winning streak at 10

By Bill Kruissink
STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — The Encinal worked hard for the 37 points they put on the board against the visiting Berkeley Yellow Jackets on Tuesday night. Encinal's runs to the hoop were cut short, 3-pointers were missed, and the club was frequently frustrated by the pressure the Jackets put on the ball.

Man playing Berkeley was a work.

In contrast, the Yellow Jackets (17-11 ACCAL) had little trouble arriving at 37 points. In fact, they rocketed right past 37 points when Simon Dinosh dropped down a 3-pointer from the right baseline for a 39-18 advantage with about a minute to go in the first half.

That fact alone reveals the outcome of the game.

Berkeley, winners of 10 straight games, topped Encinal 70-37. Its defense caused Encinal to turn the ball over 22 times, while the Yellow Jackets coughed up the ball on just nine occasions.

sions. On offense, Berkeley had 12 different players score and four landed in double digits.

Encinal? Don't ask.

But it was the first quarter that said it all, that set the tone for the next three.

Leading by just one point, 8-7, with 4 minutes, 32 seconds to go in the period, Berkeley took control. Nate Simmons smoothly stroked a 3-pointer from the left corner and Robert Hunter-Ford made it 13-7 with a little jumper with three minutes left.

After an Encinal timeout, Berkeley poured it on, getting baskets from Hunter-Ford off a pass from Jesse Alter, a bucket from Damien Burns with assist from Shaun Burl, a hoop from Jack Sweeney on a soft feed from Burl and a final basket by Dinosh.

It all happened in a three-minute whirl. Steals at half court were quickly turned into buckets, Berkeley passes found the open man and its outsider shooters were surprisingly open.

All of which went according to plan.

"Coach (Mike Gragnani) told us to take it to them right from the beginning," said Burns, who struck for six points in the first quarter alone. "He told us that we had to get out against them and they'd kind of give up. And that's kind of what they did."

Despite the final score — and the fact the Jets (10-14, 6-6) were never closer than 13 points of the Yellow Jackets again — Encinal



PROTECTING THE BALL, Berkeley's Simon Dinosh dribbled around Encinal's Antoine Jones. Playing in Alameda on Feb. 12, the Yellow Jackets defeated the Jets 70-37.

See EASY, Page C2

Panthers 'don't want close game'

Panthers get defensive against Chieftains, win

By Chace Bryson
STAFF WRITER

SAN PABLO — After two and a half quarters of trying to outplay Salesian High School with offensive basketball, St. Mary's went back to what's worked in the past.

Trailing 42-38 with 4:20 remaining in the third period, the Panthers used a suffocating de-

fense to lead them on a 19-0 run en route to 70-57 win over the Chieftains in front of a capacity crowd at Contra Costa College.

"We'd been trying to beat them with offense all night long," St. Mary's forward Chase Moore said. "We had to go back to the style of defense that got us to this point, and our offense emerged

See PANTHER'S, Page C2

Prep boys basketball

St. Mary's 70
Salesian 57

Berkeley taking game to next level

By Pete Elman
CORRESPONDENT

The veteran Berkeley Yellow Jackets (17-7), led by senior center Sabrina Keys, ran out to a 14-3 first quarter lead and never looked back en route to an easy 64-43 victory over a young Encinal Jets' team (9-0 league, 18-7 overall).

Playing Tuesday night, Berkeley's stifling pressure defense forced 27 Jet turnovers, and by the end the game began to resemble a layup drill as the young Jets were simply overwhelmed by the taller and more experienced Yellow Jackets.

The two teams are scheduled to meet Feb. 23 in a playoff game that will determine who gets the automatic invitation to the North Coast Section playoffs, a game set up by the Jets' title and the Yellow Jackets' unique position as a "competitive anomaly."

Nakamura, the venerable wizard of Berkeley basketball, went into the game somewhat depleted

See NEXT LEVEL, Page C2

Prep girls basketball

Berkeley 64
Encinal 43

In Deck

Prep soccer

North Coast Section playoffs, 7 p.m. — No. 10 seeded Berkeley (15-5) knocked off No. 7 Washington Valley (16-5), seeded second, Wednesday, so travels to El Cerrito High to face the No. 9 Eagles (18-1-3) in the NCS 3A quarterfinal.

San Francisco, Kamani Hill ripped off goals as the Yellow Jackets beat the Eagles 3-0.

Prep soccer

North Coast Section playoffs, 7 p.m. — It took 100 minutes, but the Berkeley girls (16-5), seeded second, eventually toppled the No. 9 Eagles (18-1-3) in the opening round of the NCS 3A playoffs.

The Yellow Jackets now head to a quarterfinal match at No. 1 California High School in Dublin Saturday.

Baseball

Berkeley variety vs. alumni, noon Monday (President's Day) at San Pablo Park — Right, it's just a scrimmage — just for fun, really — but it's baseball all the same. Oh, and if did play for the Yellow Jackets in the past, and want to participate now, call alumni coach Sam Nickelsen at 967-7895. Chances are, he'll fit you into the lineup.

Girls basketball

■ Berkeley at Pinewood (Los Altos Hills), 6 p.m., Saturday — The biggest high-school game in the Bay Area this weekend. The No. 4 Yellow Jackets (16-7) have finally gotten the cobwebs out and are rolling toward North Coast Section, NorCal and a possible state championship (lurking are the iron rims at ARCO).

The Pinewood School, a Division V powerhouse of 300 students, is everything Berkeley isn't — small, exclusive

and ranked higher. The Panthers, led by point guard Sarah Feeley, are currently 20-2, ranked No. 1 in the East Bay by at least one newspaper and No. 25 in USA Today, the latter according to the school's Web site. The game will be played at the Pinewood gym and it will be Berkeley's last big obstacle before the playoffs start.

A big Berkeley advantage: tuition is free, at Pinewood it's \$14,100 per year.

Boys basketball

■ Bay Shore Athletic League playoffs, at Albany, TBA — The times for the openers will not be decided until Monday night, but St. Mary's will enter as the No. 1 seed and very likely exit the same way.

The Panthers will get a strong challenge any one of the St. Joseph Pilots, Kennedy-Richmond Eagles or Salesian Chieftains, but figure not strong enough to keep them from rolling into the North

Coast Section Division 1 playoffs as a top seed.

St. Mary's will get a first-round bye in the playoffs and will play Thursday.

Wrestling

■ Bay Shore Athletic League Tournament, at Albany, TBA — An all-day affair that features the best from the four-team league. Albany and Berkeley are the two local teams involved.

Stars of the week

■ Kalyca Seabrook, Berkeley basketball — With Devanel Hampton out with a knee injury, Seabrook stepped in and scored 15 points in the Yellow Jackets' big 66-56 victory over Amador Valley at home on Saturday night. Against Encinal on Tuesday, she pumped in 15 points, grabbed three rebounds and made three steals.

■ Angelita Hutton, Berkeley basketball — Came off the bench to score a

team-high 16 points against Amador Valley.

■ DaShawn Freeman, St. Mary's basketball — Sick with the flu, Freeman nonetheless came off the bench with his team behind 42-38 and helped the Panthers score 18 straight points to lead his team to a 70-57 victory over Salesian Saturday night at Contra Costa College. Freeman finished with 13 points.

■ Andrew Nackerud, St. Mary's soccer — Scored Panthers' only goal in 2-1 loss to Borean Christian in the first round of the BSAL playoffs.

Quotes of the Week

■ "Kalyca stepped up big. She's really earning her spot out there. As a coach you have in your mind the potential of a player. At the start of the season, she was a bit shy. Now you can see the confidence coming through."

— Berkeley girls basketball coach Gene Nakamura, commenting on the

emergence of senior Kayca Seabrook as a potent force on the Yellow Jackets

■ "We knew we were going to have to come out here tonight and take it to them, 'cause we knew if we didn't it was going to be close, and we didn't want a close game."

— St. Mary's guard DaShawn Freeman, commenting on the 70-57 victory over Salesian.

■ "It was really, really exciting to run at Madison Square Garden. I hope to run there with Duke."

— Berkeley resident Clara Horowitz, who finished fifth in the high school mile race at the Millrose Games in New York City on Feb. 1. Horowitz, who competed for the first time at Madison Square Garden that day, is a senior at Head-Royce in Oakland. She will head to Duke in the fall.

■ "It was an elegant, elegant scene. All the starters were in tuxedos"

— Jeff Horowitz, Clara's dad, who accompanied his daughter to the Millrose Games.

Next level

FROM PAGE C1

—two of his sophomores were ineligible (and out for the season) and two other players were injured, most notably starting center Devanai Hampton, the Yellow Jackets' freshman sensation who is expected back this week.

But this was "senior night" and Nakamura, as he did in an identical situation last season against his former prize pupil Rucker, had a rotation plan that he was going to stick with.

"My seniors played the entire first and last quarters, so I couldn't control the rotation like I normally do," he said after the game, almost apologetic for what most observers would regard as a fine team performance.

Senior center Keys, who is off to Purdue next fall, had a big game, especially with Hampton in street clothes. She finished with 13 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and three steals. She also managed to toss in a pair of uncharacteristic 3-pointers.

Encinal had trouble from the outset, scoring just three points in the first quarter, as the 'Jacks, led by multi-dimensional senior point guard Angelita Hutton (10 points, three assists) stymied the Jets' offense.

"We just had too many

turnovers tonight," Rucker sighed.

Berkeley led 26-19 at the half. The Jackets were never threatened, their frontline of Keys, senior Mayette Anderson (eight points, eight rebounds) and Katyca Seabrook (15 points, six boards, three steals) cooling Encinal star Jackie Randolph. She finished with seven points and 10 rebounds.

Berkeley 68, Amador V. 56
Berkeley High School senior Kalyca Seabrook had some pretty big shoes to fill.

When center Devanai Hampton went down with a knee injury two weeks ago, Seabrook was the one whom Yellow Jackets coach Gene Nakamura chose to fill the void. Seabrook has answered the call in a big way. The forward scored several key baskets and finished with 15 points in Berkeley's 68-56 nonleague win over Amador Valley on Saturday night.

"Kalyca stepped up big," Nakamura said. "She's really earning her spot out there. As a coach, you have in your mind the potential of a player. At the start of the season, she was a bit shy. Now you can see the confidence coming through."

After trailing for most of the first half, Seabrook completed a three-point play to give the Yellow Jackets a 26-24 lead, their first of the game, with 1 minute,

14 seconds to go in the first half. Berkeley pushed the lead to 38-33 when Mayette Anderson scored inside late in the third quarter.

The Dons (17-4) continued to hang around. Guard Vanessa Rogers hit a jumper from the left wing to bring Amador Valley within three (40-37) at the end of the third. Rogers led the Dons with 14 points.

But then Berkeley (16-7) went to work. Seabrook drove the lane and kicked the ball out to Angelita Hutton, who knocked down an open 3-pointer. Hutton came off the bench and led the Yellow Jackets with 16 points.

"The girls never gave up all the way through," Amador Valley coach Doug VanderHorst said. "We worked very hard on defense, but when Berkeley needed a big shot, they hit it. This game does nothing but good things for us."

The Dons used their transition game to wear down Berkeley early. Forward Ashley King-Bischof scored down low to put Amador Valley up 14-3 midway through the first quarter.

"Amador Valley is a quick-starting team," Nakamura said. "I was hoping they'd hit a little slump and our girls would wake up. It had me worried a little bit."

Jennifer Starks contributed to this article.

Soccer

FROM PAGE C1

overtimes.

Castro Valley thought it had taken a 1-0 lead in the 45th minute. Brittany Arterburn took a shot that beat Berkeley goalkeeper Sara Corrigan-Gibbs, but a whistle blew seconds later for an offside call.

"I thought we were the better team," Castro Valley coach Paul McCallion said. "I'm still trying to figure out why they took the goal away from us in regulation."

But the goal didn't count and, despite many shots in the final 10 minutes of regulation by Castro Valley, the game was left up to Wallach's heroics.

Berkeley had the better scoring chances throughout the game, however, out-shooting Castro Valley 14-7 in regulation, including 7-1 in the first half.

Boys

Berkeley 3, Washington 0

The Berkeley High School boys soccer team will face a familiar foe in the North Coast Section 3A quarterfinals Saturday night.

After a 3-0 first-round win over Washington, the No. 10 seed

Yellow Jackets (14-4-3) earned a trip to No. 2 Castro Valley (16-1-3), the Hayward Area Athletic League champs who beat Berkeley 2-0 in the Newark Memorial Tournament back in December.

"They are a very, very good team," Berkeley coach Janu Juarez said of Castro Valley. "They're skilled, physical, very strong and aggressive."

Berkeley, however, has knocked off Castro Valley in each of the last two seasons. In both games, Castro Valley came into the game undefeated.

On Wednesday, Kamani Hill scored two goals and Chris Davis had two assists to lead the Yellow Jackets over the seventh-seeded Huskies (14-6-4) at Berkeley High.

Berkeley coach Janu Juarez credited three of his top players — Hill, Davis and Liam Riley — with sparking his team.

"I'm very happy because the three leaders on the team stepped up big time," Juarez said. "The team is jelling at the right time."

Berkeley's defense recorded its ninth shutout of the season. David Present-Thoms (four saves) and Alex Goins (two saves) combined on the shutout at goalkeeper.

Piedmont 1, St. Mary's 0

Gabe Arce-Yee scored a goal on a penalty kick in the 39th minute, as ninth-seeded Panthers and advanced top-seeded Las Lomas tied the game in the 45th minute.

The match might have continued scoreless if not for Mary's Stephen McGee, who scored in the 39th minute. Sam Campy attacked for Piedmont, but was fouled on the left wing, dribbled into the goal and got tangled up with the Panthers.

To that point, the Panthers played evenly with the visitors, getting five shots on goal. Mary's four Piedmont players had much more of the game's second half, outshooting the Panthers 10-4.

Goalie Nick Osborne, who made five fine saves, including a difficult stop to a header by Campodonicio in the 39th minute, was shaken up by a play when he hit his knee post, but stayed in the game.

Osborne finished with four saves for St. Mary's. Times staff writers Joe Stiglich and Mike Han contributed to this article.

OK, but don't think postseason does it justice.

Post game

STATS: Khion Tate (10 points), Damien Burnmon Dinosh (10) and Khion Tate (10) were all in double digits in scoring for Berkeley. In scoring for Berkeley, low Jackets made more of the game's second half, outshooting the Panthers 10-4.

SCHEDULE: Berkeley El Cerrito last night (Feb. 14) and finishes the home against De Anza College (Feb. 22). Game time 7 p.m.

The North Coast Section playoffs begin Feb. 26.

Soccer

PREP BOYS

NCS 3A playoffs

Wednesday First round
Amador Valley 6, No. 9 Newark Memorial (10-8-5) 1
Berkeley 3, No. 7 Washington (14-6-4) 0
Saturday Quarterfinals
No. 8 Amador Valley (14-5-2) at No. 1 De La Salle (14-2-4), 7 p.m.

No. 5 Monte Vista (12-6-2) at No. 4 Deer Valley (15-3-2), 7 p.m.
No. 10 Berkeley (14-4-3) at No. 2 Castro Valley (16-1-3), 7 p.m.
No. 6 Foothill (14-5-1) at No. 3 San Ramon Valley (14-5-1), 7 p.m.

NCS 2A playoffs

Wednesday First round
Piedmont 1, No. 8 St. Mary's (9-10-2) 0
Saturday Quarterfinals
No. 9 Piedmont (10-6-3) at No. 1 Las Lomas (16-1-2), 7 p.m.
No. 4 Northgate (13-5-2) vs. Bishop O' Dowd (11-5-4), at Burrell Field, San Leandro, 5 p.m.
No. 2 Kennedy (13-3-3) at No. 7 Dublin (8-4-7), 5 p.m.
No. 6 Berman Christian (14-5-2) at No. 3 Alcatraz (11-4-4), 7 p.m.

PREP GIRLS

NCS 3A playoffs

Wednesday First round
Berkeley 1, No. 3 Castro Valley (15-4-1) 0, 2 OT
Amador Valley 3, No. 10 Garfield (13-6-2) 1
Saturday Quarterfinals
No. 8 Berkeley (10-5) at No. 1 California (13-1-3), 7 p.m.
No. 5 Clayton Valley (16-2-2) vs. No. 4 Mission San Jose (13-5-2) at Foothill High School, 5 p.m.
No. 7 Amador Valley (10-4-4) at No. 2 Monte Vista (15-3-2), 7 p.m.
No. 6 Arroyo (18-2) at No. 3 Foothill (14-3-2), 7 p.m.

Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

from that."

With the win, St. Mary's (22-2, 10-0 Bay Shore Athletic League) extended its current win-streak to 15 games and essentially wrapped up a third-consecutive BSAL title for the Panthers.

"We knew we were going to have to come out here tonight take it to them," St. Mary's guard DaShawn Freeman said. "Cause we knew if we didn't it was going to be close, and we didn't want a close game."

Salesian (14-7, 7-3) did make it close for much of the first half behind a heavy rebounding effort and a balanced scoring attack. The Chieftains trailed by just three at the half (32-29) and then grabbed the lead midway through the third period before the St. Mary's defense turned up the heat.

During the 19-0 run, the Panthers forced 13 turnovers and held Salesian scoreless for nearly eight minutes of playing time.

"One thing St. Mary's does re-


ally well is that they rush you," Salesian coach Bill Mellis said. "I thought we did a good job with execution in the first half, but toward the end of the second half they rushed us into a lot of mistakes."

Panthers shooting guard John Sharper was the game's high scorer with 24 points, including a perfect 14 of 14 from the free throw line. Freeman, who saw limited action due to flu symptoms, still finished with 13 points, four assists and four steals.

Salesian was led by Brandon Jones who scored 13 and Kyle Lankford with 11. The Chieftains did out rebound St. Mary's 41-25.

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CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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Arts



BILL MANN
MannMedia Notes

Post-Valentine Love letters from TV brass

FOUR GOES TO 5: "As smart as we are," said Young Broadcasting boss John Young last week, "we never thought we'd be out of the top four stations." He was referring to his dispirited, KRON-TV, which has been since New Year's day, dropped from contender for the Bay Area's most-watched station to number five since losing KPIX. Which, to put it in perspective, is a bit like the home network of such stations going 2-14 next year. Young is hinting that KRON might be sold and become part of a two-station "duopoly" — perhaps to Viacom, which already owns two stations there, KPIX and KBHK. Which is just what Young did when it unloaded KRON's corporate sister station in L.A. this week, KCAL-TV.

KCAL, sold to Viacom, will become a UPN affiliate. Viacom-owned KNX-TV, which will become a UPN affiliate, owns both UPN and CBS. Could KRON become a UPN affiliate, too? It's unclear. The network of such stations is a bit like the home network of such stations going 2-14 next year. Young is hinting that KRON might be sold and become part of a two-station "duopoly" — perhaps to Viacom, which already owns two stations there, KPIX and KBHK. Which is just what Young did when it unloaded KRON's corporate sister station in L.A. this week, KCAL-TV.

As if all this weren't demoralizing enough, Young-hired consultants have descended on KRON. Says one Channel 4 insider, "All they talked about was (anchor) Pam Moore's ratings." For the record, Moore's ratings do appear to have been slammed back.

"If they mess with Pam," said one competing anchor, "they're messing with one of the best things KRON still has."

Dark Days at KTVU? KTVU has always been high on the list of Oakland Fox affiliates, but that might be changing. No sooner had power Channel 2 general manager Kevin O'Brien left for another TV job than consultants hired by Atlanta-based owner Fox Broadcasting landed in Oakland.

Their first post-O'Brien move came this week, one you may have noticed: KTVU's 10 p.m. "10:00 News" has a new host — at the end of its newscast, anyway. Mark Sanchez's sports segment has been more than halved — it's now a sparse two minutes. And news now follows it instead of preceding the newscast.

"It's frustrating," admits one Channel 2 news staffer. "Kevin made this into a sports station, and he would never have allowed this." That's for sure. You can expect even more tinkering with KTVU's rebranded and successful news operation in weeks ahead, from wary KTVU staffers.

Media Notes: With campaign finance reform back in the news this week — it took two tons of dynamite to get the Senate-passed legislation out from under House Speaker Dennis Hastert's more-than-100-vote margin — one thing you're hearing much about (and about which I keep reminding you: Where all this money goes — you won't hear about this much — if at all — on the TV networks. That's because the broadcast networks are the beneficiaries of 90 percent of this money. And they're fighting the finance reform, which will take the networks millions. The soft money goes to buy advertising, not the negative ads we all love.

See MANN, Page C5



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRANSPARENT THEATER

TARA BLAU, (left), William Boynton, Garth Petal, Liza Zapol and Noah James Butler appear in Transparent Theater's "The Golden State."

I'd like to be under the sea

Transparent Theater heads to seaside in its production of 'The Golden State'

JUST IN CASE it's wet outside today — an even-money bet, considering the sloshy weather we've had on recent weekends — I couched the first item today in an appropriately dampish vein. If it's sunny — praise be — lower the old bumbershoot and read on anyway.

Transparent Theater provides the aquatic segue with the new company's third play in its inaugural 2001-02 season: "The Golden State," written and directed by artistic director Tom Clydesdale.

Here's a face-mask peek into the underwater world coming up Feb. 23 at Transparent's playhouse, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley (corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way).

A character named Aquaman, wearing his signature orange fish-scale shirt, rules the ocean. At his side are his queen, Mera, and their son, Aqualad, and their daughter, Lana. Above the surface of the water, holed up in his house in Malibu, lives Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys (fictional, of course). Since his heyday in the early 1960s, Brian has grown severely depressed and lies in bed much of the day. He is under the care of his friend and psychiatrist, Dr. Eugene E. Landy.



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

And ... ACTION! The young Lana meets the aging Brian on the beach one night and S-Q-U-I-S-H! The two worlds of the underwater King and the washed-up Beach Boy collide.

Take it from the playwright himself: "A blend of comic book escapade and tragedy follow in the wake. Moving between the raging sea and Brian's chlorine-blue pool, the play explores the particular California dream of freedom and discontent."

Oh, yeah. Glad you asked. Yes, the music of the Beach Boys is featured throughout.

"The Golden State" plays at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 7 p.m. on Sundays. It closes March 24. Tickets are \$20 week nights. Every Sunday is pay-what-you-can. Call 510-883-0305.

BERKELEY OPERA

OPENS: Let's stay with the musical note for another couple of items, although at different depths. One's over here and the other over there.

Berkeley Opera opens its 23rd season next Friday with a six-performance run through March 3 of Mozart's "Così fan tutte" at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley.

ley.

On the same night, City College of San Francisco presents the world premiere of "Brilliance Within the Darkness — the Life of Joaquin Roderigo," the blind Spanish composer/guitarist.

In "Così fan tutte" (Everybody Does It), Mozart took an essentially frivolous story and turned it into music that portrays a wide range of emotions and subtle characterizations. It ranks as operatic comedy at its best.

The story: Two young couples swear eternal fidelity to each other. But, now, enter jaded old Don Alfonso (Wayne Wong). Unh-un! All women are fickle, he cautions them; theirs included.

The two young swains, played by Alec Jeong and Scott Patton, cook up an absurd practical joke to test their fiancées, played by Jillian Khuner and Erin Neff. Bad for them; good for comedy. Before long everybody is snarled in a jumble of farcical disguises and bittersweet disillusionment. Heartache reigns — just had to get in the old wet-weather pun — supreme.

Director Jenny Lord has set the action in Italy in the 1950s. The production, with orchestra, will be sung in the original Italian with English supertitles.

Jonathan Khuner is music director and conductor, assisted by Joseph Bloom and Thomas Shoenbom as assistant musical directors.

"Così fan tutte" plays at 8

p.m. Feb. 22 and March 1 and 2; at 7 p.m. Feb. 24 and March 3; and 2 p.m. Feb. 23.

Tickets are \$32 general admission; \$25 for seniors, and \$15 for the handicapped and youths 17 and under. A limited number of side seats (partially obstructed view) are also available for \$15. Call 925-798-1300 or visit the web site at www.berkeleyopera.com.

ILLUMINATING A LIFE

"Brilliance Within the Darkness — The Life of Joaquin Roderigo" is a play by Cecilia Gaerlan interwoven with music by Roderigo. The production is a celebration of the centenary of the composer's birth. Graham Wade, Roderigo's biographer, will discuss the musician's work before the performance.

Ann Fajilan is directing with musical direction by Bob Davis.

"Brilliance" plays for five performances only: 8 p.m. on Feb. 22 and 23; and March 1 and 2, with a 2 p.m. matinee on March 3.

City College of San Francisco's Diego Rivera Theatre is on the ocean campus at 50 Phelan Ave., San Francisco.

Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$5 for seniors and students. Call 415-239-3132.

Send items of interest to Jack Tucker at 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; fax to 510 262-2776; e-mail to tucker@cc-times.com, or call 510 262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

The voice behind the star

Dan Tyminski's music in the film 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' has brought him a whole new fan base

By Clay Kallam
CORRESPONDENT

"I've been doing this my whole life," says Dan Tyminski, "and now I'm an overnight success."

Tyminski still isn't exactly a household name, but mention the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack to anyone in the music business — and about 4 million who aren't — and you'll get an immediate response. The album was the surprise smash of 2001, and the Down From the Mountain tour, which winds up its 17-date itinerary in Berkeley on Wednesday night, has sold out at every stop.

The movie behind the soundtrack, starring George Clooney, was set in the 1930s and it, too, has an unlikely premise for success. Made by the eccentric Coen brothers, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" is a remake of Homer's "The Odyssey," and Clooney's character tries to escape a chain gang and get home before his wife marries another man.

Tyminski's main moment of glory is a cover of the classic "I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow,"

PREVIEW

WHAT: Down From the Mountain, featuring music from "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" with Alison Krauss & Union Station (featuring Dan Tyminski), Emmylou Harris, Patty Loveless, Ralph Stanley, the Whites, Norman & Nancy Blake and more

WHEN: 8 p.m. Wednesday

WHERE: Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way

HOW MUCH: \$35-\$65

CONTACT: 510-644-8957 (info), 415-421-8497 (tickets), www.ticketmaster.com

which Clooney's character sings (in Tyminski's voice).

"The direction I was given," recalls Tyminski, "was you're trying to play rock 'n' roll but it hasn't been invented yet, and you just sold your soul to the devil so you could play the guitar. Now sing 'Man of Constant Sorrow.' They tried a couple of other guitar players before me," Tyminski adds. "Finally, I did a take and dropped the tuning down. I played it raw and Joel Coen sat up and said, 'That's it.'"

But Tyminski is just part of the show for the Down From the Mountain tour. He's a member of Union Station, the band that performs and records with fiddler/singer Alison Krauss. Also

on the lineup are Emmylou Harris and Ralph Stanley, whose version of "O Death," once recorded by the late-lamented Camper Van Beethoven, is another highlight of the movie soundtrack album.

The show, by the way, isn't just the songs on "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Harris, for example, has sung "Red Dirt Girl," the title track from her new album, at most of the stops.

Still, the Down From the Mountain tour reflects the film, both in terms of its organization, and its attention to detail.

"There is a sense of the movie in the show," says Tyminski. For one thing, it features different groupings of musicians who come onstage for one or two songs, and then disappear for a while, "like a traveling bluegrass festival."

And like the soundtrack, the show tries to stay as true to the 1930s as possible.

"When we (Krauss & Union Station) play our normal shows," says Tyminski, "I use an ear monitor and get very close to the mic when I sing. In this, I don't use the monitor and I'm further away from the mic. It's a lot more live-sounding. You actually hear people stepping into a microphone."

That search for authenticity was even more fanatical during the recording process. For example, no microphones were used that were made later than the 1930s.



"IT'S GOOD, honest, pure music," says Dan Tyminski of the Down From the Mountain tour that is making its way to Berkeley.

"You had to let them warm up," says Tyminski, "and the equipment was fickle. There were no overdubs, no head-phones. It's unheard of."

The results, however, were glorious. The album gave modern listeners a taste of what American music sounded like during the Depression — and modern listeners loved it.

"There was a lot of attention paid to the style," says Tyminski, and the instruments used were as authentic as possible.

It was a challenge for the musicians, not because of the format, but because they were used to the pacing of their own concerts and recording sessions, instead of the demands of the film industry.

See VOICE, Page C5

EVENTS

General

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAIN LIBRARY — John Hatch and Reginald Lockett, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. Hatch, a historical novelist and Oakland resident, will discuss his novel "Mississippi Swamp; Lockett, an Oakland poet, reads from his book "The Party Crashers of Paradise." Presented as part of the African American History Month Celebration. West Auditorium, 124 14th St. (510) 238-3136.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND

■ Ellis Cose, Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m. The author talks about his book "Envy of the World: Being a Black Man in America." Part of the February Authors Series in honor of African American History Month.

■ Steven Barnes and Tanager Due, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. The husband and wife writing team who authored "The Lion's Blood" and "The Living Blood," respectively. Part of the February Authors Series in honor of African American History Month.

659 14th St. (510) 637-0200. **DIMOND BRANCH —** "Internet Workshops," Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 3565 Fruitvale Ave. (510) 482-7844.

WEST OAKLAND BRANCH

■ "African American Quilters Workshop and Demonstration," Feb. 23, call for times. Watch and take part in quilt making.

■ "Chess Workshop for Children," Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. 1801 Adeline St. (510) 597-5049. Free. Oakland. (510) 238-3134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

CODY'S BOOKSTORES — TELEGRAPH AVENUE

■ Cindy Engel, Feb. 15. The author discusses "Wild Health: How Animals Keep Themselves Well and What We Can Learn from Them."

■ Robert Cohen, Feb. 19. The author reads from "Inspired Sleep," 2454 Telegraph Ave. (510) 845-7852.

FOURTH STREET

■ Nuala O'Faolain, Feb. 15. The author talks about "My Dream of You," a first novel by this Irish newspaper columnist. At 1730 Fourth St.

■ Tracy Hogg, Feb. 19. The author talks about "Secrets of the Baby Whisperer for Toddlers." A program for parents and teachers.

■ Dan Bessie, Feb. 21. The author talks about his book "Alvah Bessie's Spanish Civil War Notebooks," a collection of the notebooks kept by Bessie's father during his service as an infantryman with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in 1938. 1730 Fourth St. (510) 559-9500.

Free. Readings at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. Berkeley.

THE STARRY PLOUGH —

"The Berkeley Poetry Slam," Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. Poets should arrive at 7:30 p.m. to sign up. The first Wednesday of the month is "Chicken Grease" hosted by Nazelah Jamison and Karen Ladson with spinning by DJ Funklor; all other Wednesdays are "The Berkeley Slam" hosted by Charles Elik and dani euryonme with music by Three Blind Mice. For ages 21 and over after 10 p.m. \$5. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 435-1665.

DISNEY ON ICE —

"Jungle Adventures," Feb. 20 through Feb. 24. Three of Disney's popular animated hits, "The Jungle Book," "Tarzan" and "The Lion King" are brought together in one ice show.

Opening Night, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. Some tickets are half price. \$12.75 to \$50. Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Oakland/Alameda County Arena, Hegenberger Road and Interstate Highway 880, Oakland. (510) 762-2277 or (415) 421-TIXS or (707) 528-TIXS.

PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE —

"Human Rights Watch," Feb. 22 through Feb. 24. A presentation of nine challenging, provocative films capable of creating forums for discussion in communities around the Bay Area. \$7 general; \$4.50 seniors,

See EVENTS, Page C5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Vera H-C Chan and Mary F. Pils, Times; Robert W. Butler, Knight Rider Newspapers; Anthony Breznican, Christy Lemire and Tim Molloy, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Bob Strauss, Los Angeles Daily News; Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times; and Gary Dowell, Tom Mastrand and Chris Vognar, Dallas Morning News.

"AMERICAN ADOBE": Everybody who makes an immigrant-adjustment movie undoubtedly thinks that they're providing unique insights into a singularly dramatic experience. This film is the Filipino version. The cast of characters consists of five old college friends from Manila, all of whom live in varying degrees of comfort in New York City. Personal crises abound and boil over clumsily to staged revelations about dating partners and pat generational misunderstandings. The film often seems superficial and awkward; on the other hand, the actors lend palpable authenticity to their characterizations. — B. Strauss. (R: nudity, sex, language.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. **C+**

"A BEAUTIFUL MIND": Very good

by-the-book filmmaking from director Ron Howard. The film spans 47 years in the life of John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe), a mathematician genius who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. Doubtless the element that made Crowe want to play Nash (brilliantly, as usual) is that Nash also suffers from schizophrenia, and has for decades. Daring only in its subject matter — math and mental illness — the movie follows the careful trajectory of a classic inspirational story, occasionally veering into the medicinal, but still undeniably moving and effective. Jennifer Connelly is excellent as Nash's wife. — M. Pils. (PG-13: intense thematic material, sexual content and a scene of violence.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. **B+**

"BEIJING BICYCLE": Bicycles are as synonymous with Beijing as cabs are with Manhattan, and when the hero, Guei (Cui Lin), of this superb and harrowing film, joins the swarm of cyclists who crowd the city's streets, he stands for countless young people who have made the journey from the country to China's capital in search of a better life. Guei considers himself lucky; he has landed a messenger job that provides him with a mountain bike that will be-

come his once he has earned 700 yuan, which is about \$85 American. But the story takes off in earnest when the bike is stolen and his only chance of keeping his job is to find the bike. — K. Thomas. (PG-13: some violence and brief nudity.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. **A-**

"BIG FAT LIAR": Frankie Muniz plays Jason, a 14-year-old who can't tell the truth. Inspiration strikes when his father complains of his "God-given talent" for making up tales, so he writes a short story on a big fat liar for a homework assignment. By chance, he collides with an obnoxious Hollywood producer on the way to deliver this assignment. The producer (Paul Giamatti), starved for a hit, swipes the story and puts it into preproduction. Jason has lost his assignment, and his excuse is an unbelievable whopper. Jason and his sole pal, Kaylee (Amanda Bynes), set out to get an apology or, failing that, revenge. The film is predictable and overly reliant on the far-fetched, but no lie, it's the hippest kids movie since "Spy Kids." — R. Moore. (PG: some language.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. **B-**

"BIRTHDAY GIRL": A minor dark comedy with a major star. Nicole Kidman can now add a credible rendition of a sultry Russian to her

impressive résumé. "Birthday Girl" won't withstand the test of time, but the plot is unpredictable enough and Kidman is strong enough to keep your attention focused. John (Ben Chaplin) has a stable job and a stable life until he orders a Russian mail-order bride Nadia (Kidman) off the Internet. Her inability to speak English means their courtship has communication problems, except for in the bedroom. Then Nadia's cousins arrive for her birthday, all hell breaks loose and we head into "Something Wild" territory. — M. Pils. (R: sexuality and language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. **B-**

"BLACK HAWK DOWN": Director Ridley Scott takes an unflinching look at a 1993 conflict — a planned 45-minute "extraction" of a Somali warlord's top men — that instead became a blood bath that killed 19 Americans and an estimated 1,000 Somalis. Co-starring in a large cast including Ewan McGregor and Sam Shepard, Josh Hartnett as Rangers Staff Sergeant Matt Eversmann is not so much the leading man as the terribly involved observer through which the audience becomes terribly involved itself. — V. Chan. (R: strong violence, language.) 2 hours, 23 minutes. **A-**

"BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF": What starts out as a freakish mystery about two men hunting a predatory beast in 18th-century France devolves into a mishmash parody of kinkboxing and ludicrous occult shenanigans. The French-language thriller draws from real events, when nearly 100 people died horribly, attacked by some unknown creature in the 1760s. Heading the investigation are Frönsac (Samuel Le Bihan), a royal naturalist, and his assistant, Mani (Mark Dacascos), an American Indian. The film has some good twists, but for the most part it seems to be chasing its tail. — A. Breznican. (R: strong violence, gore and nudity.) 2 hours, 22 minutes. **D+**

"CHOP SUEY": The celebrated fashion and figure photographer Bruce Weber, whose studies of young men romping naked in the wilderness established a new category of all-American homoeroticism, has created an eccentric, highly personal guided tour of some of his favorite people, places and things. The film is an exercise in free association. Its only unity embraces Midwestern wrestler and model Peter Johnson, legendary lounge singer Frances Faye, elderly British adventurer Sir Wilfred Thesiger and two conspicuous creatures billed as Hoots the Poodle and Tara the Elephant. Weber proves to be an able docent and an entertaining raconteur, equally at home analyzing compositions and telling anecdotes about Elizabeth Taylor. — D. Kehr. (NR) 1 hour, 38 minutes. **B**

"COLLATERAL DAMAGE": Revenge porn starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a firefighter who watches his wife and small child die in a terrorist bombing at an L.A. high-rise, then heads to Colombia to find the man responsible. Originally due in theaters in early fall, but deemed inappropriate entertainment fare after Sept. 11. There were even murmurings it would never be released. What a good and honorable decision that would have been. Enter at your own risk. — M. Pils. (R: violence, language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. **D**

"THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO": In this version of Alexandre Dumas' classic 1846 saga, revenge is not merely sweet, but also picturesque and exciting. When first seen, Edmond Dantes (Jim Caviezel) is sweet, trusting and naive. Fernand Mondego (Guy Pearce) lusts after Edmond's fiancée, Mercedes (Dagmara Dom

OPENING TODAY

"CROSSROADS" (PG-13)
Britney Spears' big-screen debut, in which she plays one of a trio of friends who set out on a road trip.

"DIAMOND MEN" (R)
A veteran diamond salesman (Robert Forster) goes on a road trip with his brash young replacement (Donnie Wahlberg). Exclusive engagement at the Rafael Film Center.

"HART'S WAR" (R)
In a German POW camp, American soldiers band together to fight back against their captors. Starring Bruce Willis.

"IRIS" (R)
Drama chronicling the life of novelist Iris Murdoch and her decline into Alzheimer's. Stars Judi Dench and Kate Winslet, who play Iris old and young, respectively.

"JOHN Q." (PG-13)
Denzel Washington stars as an an-

gry father who takes a hostage because he can't get medical treatment for his son.

"RETURN TO NEVER LAND" (G)
This animated sequel to "The Iron Tree" finds Wendy's 12-year-old son being kidnapped by Captain Jack. Of course, Peter Pan comes to the rescue.

"SCOTLAND, PA." (R)
A retelling of Macbeth, the fast-food industry in the 1970s. Starring Maura Tierney and James LeGros.

"SUPER TROOPERS" (G)
Five overly enthusiastic State Troopers raise hell in Hawaii.

"THE TOWN IS QUIET" (G)
A mother wanders through a day in Marseille, shopping for her addicted daughter, French, with subtitles.

inczyk), and engineers a plan to frame his friend for treason. The shattered Edmond is sentenced to a notorious island prison where he spends 13 years. With the help of another inmate, the Abbe Faria (Richard Harris), he daringly escapes prison, reinvents himself as the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo and extracts revenge from his surprised enemies. — P. Wuntch. (PG-13: violence, language, sensuality.) 2 hours. **B**

"THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING": A soulful, passionate giant of a movie, one that will live long past 2001. New Zealand director Peter Jackson's ("Heavenly Creatures") adaptation of the first third of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings" enraptures you with its dramatic storytelling and visuals and leaves you rejoicing that there are filmmakers out there who have the guts to make a movie destined for vast commercial success that's also intelligent and fearlessly heartfelt. Terrifying when it should be, moving when it should be, this holds true to Tolkien's vision. One of the best movies of the year. — M. Pils. (PG-13: epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 58 minutes. **A**

"GOSFORD PARK": There are no tuxes or tights in this comic murder mystery from director Robert Altman, but make no mistake, this is ballet on film. Every aspect, from its ultimate ensemble cast to the meticulous re-creation of the staid England of years gone by, could have been treacherous, but instead it emerges triumphant, spinning together as elegantly as a stage full of dancers en pointe, moving in unbelievable unison. It's 1932 and times are changing for the gentry. Altman's camera dips, whirls and races along, tying together the moneyed upstairs of a country estate and the still respectful but increasingly resentful downstairs. He hasn't been this good in a decade. — M. Pils. (R: some language and brief sexuality.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. **A**

"I AM SAM": All movies are manipulative on some level, but this one, out from the cloth of movies of the week, is ruthlessly intent on reducing its audience to snuffling marionettes. Sean Penn is very good as a mentally challenged man trying to hold onto his young daughter (Dakota Fanning) even though the courts say she'd be better off with a "normal" foster family. So is Michelle Pfeiffer, playing the brittle, selfish

lawyer who learns a little about trying to help him. But even then, they can overcome the terrorizing and endless cycle of soundtracks, however great the Beatles songs doing the best thing about the movie. — M. Pils. (PG-13: language.) 12 minutes. **C-**

"IN THE BEDROOM": A film directed, written and acted about guilt, blame and a small seaside town in Maine. Spacek and Tom Wilkinson's parents whose lives are their son (Nick Stahl) plays in a potentially dangerous ship. Spacek will almost get an Oscar nomination for his relentlessly powerful performance and first-time director Spacek has made a name for himself. — M. Pils. (R: some violence, language.) 2 hours, 10 minutes. **A**

"ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS": Strangest of surprises, the offering from Dogma 95, the film movement more known for disturbing than for being so, introduces the concept of happiness to the movement. I once people take Italian to winter in Copenhagen and tentatively, to gravitate toward other. Not a trachona choice, though; it's got its far share of pressing elements, such as addition, fetal alcohol syndrome, sexual dysfunction, turned froth of love and comedy, escapably a Dogma movie and drab. But it still got to warm us through the cold. — M. Pils. (R: language and sexuality.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. **B**

"JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS" (G)
Brainy 10-year-old Jimmy Neutron sells into inventory of rocket ships. But when all ups in Jimmy's hometown is napped by space aliens, his friends must construct a made space armada, fight aliens and rescue their town time for dinner. It's a simple packed with a lot of arm and of gags for both children and Jimmy's creators obviously knew what it was like to be in they've channelled those into a delightful movie. — (G) 1 hour, 17 minutes. **A-**

See REVIEWS, Page 5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change. Call theaters for information.

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday February 15

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
●in the Bedroom (R) 8:30, 9:30
●Monster's Ball (R) 7, 9:45

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-843-3456
●Amelie (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
●Gosford Park (R) 1, 4, 7, 10

California Theatre

2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
●Theatre Closed for Earthquake Retrofit

Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-276-5594
●A Beautiful Mind 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20
●A Walk to Remember (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45
●Big Fat Liar (R) 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 8:15, 8:25, 10:30
●Black Hawk Down (R) 12:50, 4, 7:05, 10:05
●Collateral Damage (PG) 1:10, 2:20, 5, 7:45, 10:25
●Crossroads (PG-13) 1:20, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:45
●Hart's War (R) 11:35, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35
●John Q (PG-13) 1:20, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20, 10:15
●Kung Fu: Enter the Dragon (PG-13) 9:15
●Monster's Ball (R) 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
●Return to Never Land (G) 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8:10, 10:20
●Rollerball (PG) 11:35, 2, 4:30, 7:40, 10:15
●Snow Dogs (PG) 11:35, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:55
●Super Troopers 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:55
●The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13) 12:40, 3:45, 6:55, 9:40
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 1
●The Mithman Prophecies (PG-13) 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10

Century 25 Union City

32100 Alvarado Blvd., Union City 510-487-9593
●A Beautiful Mind 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 9:55
●A Walk to Remember (PG) 11:45, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40, 11:55
●Amelie (R) 11:15, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
●Fat Fat Liar (PG) 11:20, 1:20, 1:25, 3:35, 4:55, 5:55, 8:10, 9:25, 10:20, 11:35
●Black Hawk Down (R) 12:50, 4:05, 7:40, 10:45
●Collateral Damage (PG) 11:20, 1:20, 1:15, 1:55, 2:45, 3:45, 4:25, 6:20, 7:05, 8:05, 9, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:15
●Crossroads (PG-13) 11:35, 12:45, 1:55, 3:35, 4:10, 5:25, 7:10, 8:15, 9:30, 10:35, 11:45
●Gosford Park (R) 1:10, 4:15, 7:35, 10:35
●Hart's War (R) 11:25, 2:15, 5:10, 8, 10:45
●Am Sam (PG-13) 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
●in the Bedroom (R) 11:30, 3:45, 6:50, 9:55
●Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:15
●John Q (PG-13) 11:30, 1, 2:15, 3:45, 5, 7, 7:55, 9:20, 10, 10:45, 12
●Monster's Ball (R) 11:25, 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45, 12:05
●Return to Never Land (G) 11:30, 1:35, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10, 12
●Rollerball 11:20, 1:40, 2:35, 5, 7:05, 8, 10:25
●Snow Dogs (PG) 11:35, 2, 4:25, 7
●Super Troopers (R) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10, 12:15
●Count of Monte Cristo 12:55, 4, 7:25, 10:25
●Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 11:50, 3:45, 7:35
●The Mithman Prophecies 11:55, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

Chabot Cinema

2953 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2555
●Return to Never Land (G) 1, 3, 5, 7, 8:45

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
●Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1, 7:30
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 11:30, 3:30, 8:30
●To Be An Astronaut (Not Rated) 10:30

Elmwood 3

2955 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530
●Breed and Tulips (PG-13) 4:30, 6:50
●Endurance (G) 7
●Kendall (Not Rated) 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
●Mullholland Drive (R) 9
●The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 4:45, 9:20

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
●Down From the Mountain (Not Rated) 7:15
●O' Brother Where Art Thou? (Not Rated) 9:15

Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:40
●Collateral Damage 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
●Count of Monte Cristo 12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:15
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12, 4, 8

Jack London Cinema

190 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
●Big Fat Liar (PG) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:40
●Black Hawk Down (R) 12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10:05
●Crossroads 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50
●Hart's War (R) 12:45, 3:45, 7, 9:55
●John Q (PG-13) 11, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
●Monster's Ball (R) 11:35, 2:10, 5, 7:35, 10:10
●Return to Never Land (G) 11:05, 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
●Rollerball (PG-13) 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
●Super Troopers 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-785-8000
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:40, 3:50, 7, 9:50
●Big Fat Liar (PG) 12, 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
●Black Hawk Down (R) 12:10, 3:45, 7, 10:15
●Collateral Damage 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10
●Am Sam (PG-13) 12:30, 4, 7:10, 10
●in the Bedroom (R) 12:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10
●Rollerball (PG) 11:50, 2:30, 5, 7:50, 10:15
●Super Troopers (R) 11:40, 2, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 12:20, 4:10, 8

Naz 8 Cinemas

3900 Argonaut Way, Fremont 510-797-2000
●BrahmaChari (Not Rated) 4
●Hann...Maine Shi Pyaar Kiya (Not Rated) 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
●Kandahar (Not Rated) 5, 7, 9, 11
●Nuvvu Laka Nenu Laka (Not Rated) 8, 11
●Mani Movie (Not Rated) 7, 9, 11

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836
●Am Sam (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:45
●Return to Never Land (G) 12:30, 2:30, 4:15, 6, 7:35, 9:10

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456
●Amelie (R) 1, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
●Hann...Maine Shi Pyaar Kiya (Not Rated) 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
●Kandahar (Not Rated) 5, 7, 9, 11
●Nuvvu Laka Nenu Laka (Not Rated) 8, 11
●Mani Movie (Not Rated) 7, 9, 11

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
●Being Bicycle (PG-13) 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55
●Big Fat Liar (PG) 12:55, 3, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
●Crossroads (PG-13) 2, 4:20, 7:30, 9:40
●John Q (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45
●Lantana (R) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
●Metropolis (PG-13) 4:10, 9:15
●Storytelling (R) 1:05, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:20
●Count of Monte Cristo 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50
●The Mithman Prophecies (PG-13) 1:20, 6:35
●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7, 9:35
●The Town Is Quiet (NR) 1, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

United Artists Berkeley

224 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 3, 7:30, 10:25
●Black Hawk Down (R) 12:30, 7:05, 10:20
●Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 12:15, 3:45, 7:35
●Collateral Damage (R) 11:10, 2, 5, 8, 10:45
●Hart's War (R) 11:05, 1:55, 4:45, 7:45, 10:50
●Rollerball (PG-13) 10:40
●Super Troopers (R) 11:30, 2:15, 4:35, 7:15, 10
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11, 2:45, 7, 10:30

United Artists Emery Bay 10

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0707
●A Beautiful Mind 10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 10:40
●Black Hawk Down (R) 12, 3:30, 7, 10:30
●Collateral Damage 11, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
●Crossroads (PG-13) 11, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:15, 12:30
●John Q 10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45, 12:30
●Super Troopers 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:15, 12:30

United Artists Hayward 6

24800 Hesperian, Hayward 510-786-3000
●Crossroads 12:15, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
●Gosford Park (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10
●Hart's War (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20
●John Q (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
●Return to Never Land 12:45, 2:40, 4:50, 7, 9:20
●Snow Dogs (PG) 12:35, 2:45, 5, 7:15
●The Mithman Prophecies (PG-13) 9:30

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 7, 9:45
●Amelie (R) 6:15, 8:45
●Gosford Park (R) 6:30, 9:15

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
●in the Bedroom (R) 7, 9:35

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St., Moraga 925-988-3411
●Black Hawk Down (R) 4:30, 7:45
●John Q (PG-13) 4:40, 7:10, 9:35
●Return to Never Land (G) 5:15, 7:30, 9:20
●The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13) 4:15, 7, 9:30

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop

3200 Kissa Way, Richmond 510-756-2345
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:55, 4, 7:20, 10:15
●A Walk to Remember (PG) 11:55, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40
●Big Fat Liar (PG) 11:25, 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8:10, 10:20
●Black Hawk Down (R) 1:05, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15
●Collateral Damage (R) 11:40, 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:30
●Crossroads (PG-13) 11:45, 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
●Hart's War (R) 11:25, 2:15, 5, 7:50, 10:35
●Am Sam (PG-13) 3:55, 10:35
●John Q (PG-13) 11:30, 1, 2:15, 3:45, 5, 7:05, 7:50, 9:55, 10:30
●Monster's Ball (R) 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10
●Return to Never Land (G) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:35
●Rollerball (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10
●Snow Dogs (PG) 11:35, 2:05, 4:30, 7

●Super Troopers (R) 12, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10
●The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13) 1, 4:15, 7:30, 10:25
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 12:10, 7
●The Mithman Prophecies (PG-13) 9:20

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10
●A Walk to Remember 2:05, 5:15, 7:55, 10:10
●Big Fat Liar (PG) 1:35, 4, 7:10, 9:30, 11:45
●Birthday Girl (R) 1:45, 5:25, 8, 10:15
●Black Hawk Down (R) 1:25, 4:55, 8:15, 11:20
●Crossroads (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50, 12:05
●Gosford Park (R) 1:15, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35
●Hart's War (R) 12:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55, 12:35
●Am Sam (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:25
●Collateral Damage (R) 1:45, 5, 7:50, 10:20
●John Q (PG-13) 1:10, 4:05, 7, 9:40, 12:20
●Return to Never Land (G) 12:30, 2:35, 5:20, 7:20, 9:25
●Rollerball (PG-13) 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45, 12:10
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-1

Time's doors open, close in 'Iris'

Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

Richard Eyre's delicately

lative movie "Iris" opens with

Richard Eyre's delicately

Moreover, if you can succumb

to Alzheimers' or



JUDI DENCH plays the older, Alzheimer's-afflicted Iris Murdoch in "Iris," an unusually well-cast and eloquent film

REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "Iris"
- **STARRING:** Judi Dench, Jim Broadbent, Kate Winslet, Hugh Bonneville
- **RATING:** R (sexuality, nudity, some language)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 30 minutes
- **WHERE:** Opens today at Landmark's Embarcadero, S.F.
- **GRADE:** A

life, and people deal with it in small and sad ways, without montages set to charming songs. Trying to convince doctors who have clear evidence to the contrary in front of them, Broadbent bleats out, "Iris has a very clear mind. Minds are very muddled, but not hers." Of course he clings to this lost truth: It defined his whole adult life.

The movie is also not entirely bleak, despite the subject matter. Young Iris and young John are an entertaining pair, and we quickly grow fond of them and their eccentricities. They are both a bit clumsy, both ready to take joy in life. Young Iris falls down a staircase at a party and lies at the bottom, laughing hard in her fancy dress, arms thrown overhead to reveal unshaven armpits.

No fan of Winslet would ever doubt she could play another free spirit, but what's surprising is how well she also communicates Murdoch's certain intelligence. Going into the movie, you expect Winslet

to be sort of a side dish, injecting youth and sexuality into the picture. She fulfills that easily, but she also goes farther, creating a strong core for Dench to build from.

Dench seems smaller than Winslet, but between hair, makeup and facial expressions both women have adapted, it's not much of a stretch to believe they are the same woman. Dench has the bigger acting challenge, in establishing a character and then removing herself bit by bit, until Iris is just a shell. It's an exquisite, flawless piece of acting. No wonder she was nominated for an Oscar this week. Ditto for Winslet and Broadbent, both up for awards in the supporting categories.

The only member of this perfect cast that was left out was Bonneville, but that doesn't mean he wasn't good as well. He's actually so good that most people are going to assume he's just Broadbent with makeup on. Their twin characterizations of Bayley are seamless. It also helps that they are look enough alike to cause confusion even in the movies they aren't both in. If you saw "Notting Hill" and remembered Bernie, Hugh Grant's goofy pal, the one who didn't recognize Julia Roberts' character, you might well have then seen "Bridget Jones's Diary" and thought the man playing her father must be that "Notting Hill" guy. But you'd have been wrong; Bernie was Bonneville. Bridget's dad was Broadbent. Few. Among its other many fine attributes, "Iris" is an extraordinarily well-cast movie.

Paralegal

FROM PAGE 1

PARALEGAL In director Mohsen

PARALEGAL In director Mohsen

PARALEGAL In director Mohsen

PARALEGAL In director Mohsen

PARALEGAL In director Mohsen

"SNOW DOGS": Miami dentist Ted Brooks (Cuba Gooding Jr.) finds out he was adopted when his biological mother, who piloted Alaskan sled dogs to championships, dies, and he sleuths to the small town of Tokelma to inventory and sell her belongings — including her valuable pack of huskies. A gruff sled-dog racer named Thunder Jack (James Coburn) was one of his mother's chief competitors. He wants those dogs for himself, but Ted won't let him have them. With the Arctic Challenge coming up, Ted would rather learn to race them himself. "Snow Dogs" is lightweight and predictable, and the dogs are just too cute, along with animatronic counterparts that are so expressive, they're spooky. — C Lamire. (PG: mild crude humor) 1 hour, 39 minutes. C

"STORYTELLER" A lazy piece of work from director Todd Solondz, two stories that bear no relation, slapped together under the notion that they are both about storytelling. That's like saying the 11 o'clock news is about the news. In the first half, a college student allows herself to be sexually used by her professor to prove she isn't a racist. In the second half, a documentary filmmaker chronicles the pathetic life of a directionless high school student. Solondz has a flair for the darkest comedy, and there's some good acting, but the whole thing seems pointless. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexual content, language and some drug use) 1 hour, 23 minutes. C

"A WALK TO REMEMBER": Jamie (pop singer Mandy Moore) and London (Shane West) are the unlikely match made in heaven. London drives a fast car and hangs with the cool crowd; Jamie totes a Bible and tutors kids in her spare time. For most of its running time, the movie is a sweet love story with a sprinkling of faith. But the film's third act has the kids facing death, albeit with all the consternation of two teens confronting the prospect of spending an entire Saturday with their parents. And, really, a funeral is the last thing this movie needs. — G. Whipp. (PG: mild language, mildly sensual material) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C

"THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS": There's such an ironic distance to director Wes Anderson's playful, highly stylized movie about a family of failed, alienated geniuses that it's like watching a cinematic version of the eccentric literary quarterly McSweeney's, something exquisitely crafted for maximum cleverness. What saves it from being gag-me precious is the fact that Anderson also has a tender heart to go along with his fetish for detail and eye for the absurd. Amid all the movie's mannerisms are some truths about family that knock you for an unexpectedly emotional loop. All the performances are delightful, but Gene Hackman, as the Tenenbaums' rascal of a patriarch, is unforgettable. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality/nudity and drug content) 1 hour, 48 minutes. A-

"SHIRI": South Korea's answer to the dimwit American action flick begins with bursting brains and other point-blank atrocities, piling up 40 or 50 corpses in its first 10 minutes. Agents Ryu (Han Suk-Gyu) and Lee (Song Kang-Ho) are partners in an elite secret-police unit in South Korea. Their mission: Track down the dangerous female assassin Hee (Kim Yun-Jin), a member of a militant North Korean faction. Filmmaker Kei-Gyu hails the aural and visual onslaught from time to time so his characters can make pompous political observations that are about as subtle as a bazooka in a cathedral. — G. Whipp. (R: extreme violence, some language) 2 hours, 6 minutes. F

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

I hate to be the party-pooper here, but was anybody else turned off by the Opening Ceremonies from Salt Lake? Had enough that we were subjected to another one of these bloated, overproduced Hollywood-like entertain-o-ramas. Even worse: All the flag-waving and "USA! USA! USA!" chants we rubbed in our Olympic guests' faces. Ever wonder how this Yank flag-waving plays to, say, a 20-year-old kid from Norway? Not well, I'd guess. Isn't this like inviting people to your house — and then reading the Bible or sales literature to them for three hours? I grew up in the U.S. military, and I think we were as patriotic as any family. But all the recent flag-waving and "evil axis" stuff is embarrassing the hell out of me. I dislike the ostentatious form of "patriotism." I prefer the quiet variety — like the kind my father displayed by serving in the U.S. Army for 30 years, passing up higher-paying jobs in the private sector. Or the guy who quietly sells his SUV because he doesn't want to continue financially supporting a country, Saudi Arabia, that produced most of the Sept. 11 terrorists and treats women like chattel.

Finally, this being Oscar nomination week. One basic axiom for any consumer of popular entertainment should be: Never trust a movie, theatrical or TV, to present historical fact with any reasonable degree of accuracy. It just gets in the way of the "show."

That's a lesson I thought I'd digested years ago. So I shouldn't have been so surprised

when I learned from a documentary airing on KQED Sunday night that one of my all-time favorite movies, the 1960 Spencer Tracy classic, "Inherit The Wind," played so fast and loose with the truth.

"Monkey Trial," an installment of PBS's "American Experience" documentary series, presents the straight facts of the famous 1925 Tennessee trial in which a high-school biology teacher, John Scopes, was convicted of teaching evolution instead of "creationism." "Trial" airs at 10 Sunday on Channel 9. Don't miss it.

Sunday's documentary repeatedly reminded me of this week's Oscar-nominated movie about another troubled academic, "A Beautiful Mind," which I just saw. The New Yorker review said that Hollywood "masaged" the facts about the life of mathematician John Nash (played brilliantly, admittedly, by rightful Oscar nominee Russell Crowe).

"Manhandled" would be more like it. New York Times reviewer A.O. Scott wrote this of "Mind": "It's a piece of historical revisionism on the order of 'JFK' or 'Forrest Gump,' and manifests a depressing lack of faith in the intelligence of the audience." Scott added: "Nash's real life has been airbrushed away, leaving a portrait of a shy, loveable genius." Which the real-life Nash assuredly wasn't.

I feel the same way about how "Inherit the Wind" so flagrantly "airbrushed" history. Still, the 1960 movie's performances by the Oscar-nominated Tracy (as famed defense attorney and agnostic Clarence Darrow) and Frederic March (as bible-pounding prosecutor Williams Jennings Bryan) remain, like Crowe's, brilliant.

Major facts presented in Sunday's film about the Scopes case — and either distorted or ignored by the movie — include the fact that the case wasn't instigated by huffy religious fundamentalists. On the contrary, it was devised as a publicity stunt by the civic leaders of Dayton, Tenn. as a ploy to put their struggling little town on the map and to drum up business (that it did). Scopes was actually asked by these town elders to allow himself be arrested. Plus, the Daytonians were responding to an ad in major Tennessee dailies paid for by the fledgling ACLU after the anti-Darwin state law passed. The ACLU was looking for a teacher to challenge the law in court. This wasn't in the movie.

Plus, Bryan, a three-time Democratic Presidential nominee, was no right-wing fundamentalist, as the movie shows. Bryan was generally a progressive, and he supported such then-liberal ideas as women's suffrage and campaign finance reform. But on the question of the origins of man, Bryan (who took the Bible literally) put his faith in God.

The Scopes trial was the first to be covered live by broadcast media: It was billed as a Clash of the Titans, and both Darrow and Bryan played to the microphones of Chicago's WGN Radio. The subjects of religious bigotry and intolerance, of course, still resonate today, so the Scopes trial remains relevant — too relevant, one could argue, to trust to the whims of Hollywood. "The dream factory" always asks: Why let the truth get in the way of a good story?

(Questions? Comment? E-mail Bill: Newsman@sonic.net)

Events

FROM PAGE C3

disabled persons and children ages 12 and under. 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-1412.

PARAMOUNT MOVIE CLASSICS SERIES — ongoing. The evening includes a classic movie, walk-in music from the Wurlitzer organ, a newsreel, cartoon, movie previews and the Paramount's prize give-away game "Dec-O-Win." Doors open at 7 p.m. to allow attendees a chance to get a glass of wine before the show. Feb. 15, 8 p.m.: "Pillow Talk" (1959). A romantic Hollywood comedy starring Rock Hudson, Doris Day and Tony Randall. \$5. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400 or (925) 762-2277.

OAKLAND LYRIC OPERA — "Love Is in the Air," Feb. 16, 6 p.m. A romantic dinner and musical program featuring Jorge Orlando Gomez, tenor, and Joyce Whitelaw, piano and vocal. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Lyric Opera. Reservations required. \$65. Sequoyah Country Club, 4550 Healy Road, Oakland. (510) 836-6772.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE — "An Evening with bell hooks," Feb. 21, 8 p.m. A celebration of hooks' new book, "Communication, The Female Search for Love." Hosted by Rebecca Walker with an opening ceremony by Uzuri Amini. \$10. First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland. (510) 848-6767 ext. 609 or www.kpfa.org

WEST COAST LIVE — Join the studio audience as Sedg Thomson hosts musical guests, authors and others for his live radio broadcast. Feb. 23: Guests include Cynthia Heimel, author of the classic bestseller "Sex Tips For Girls" and The Bobs, an a cappella art band. \$12. Freight and Salvage, 1111 Adeline St., Berkeley. (415) 861-9500 or www.wcl.org

Classical music
AMERICAN BACH SOLOISTS — Jeffrey Thomas directing, Feb. 22, 8 p.m. A performance of Handel's rarely heard oratorio "Esther." \$20 to \$37. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. (415) 621-7900.

BERKELEY ART CENTER — "Completely Bach," Feb. 16 and Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. A performance of the complete Bach flute sonatas. \$12. 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. (510) 644-6893.

BERKELEY OPERA — "Cosi fan tutte," Jonathan Khuner conducting, Feb. 22 through March 3. Two young men use disguises to tempt their sweethearts and test their fidelity. In Italian with English supertitles. \$30 general; \$25 seniors; \$15 youths and disabled persons;

\$10 students. Friday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Feb. 23, 2 p.m.; March 2, 8 p.m. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (925) 798-1300 or www.berkeleyopera.org

CAL PERFORMANCES — Ewa Podles, contralto, Feb. 17, 3 p.m. Guest artist: Ania Marchwinska, piano. A program of works by Rossini, Chopin and Brahms. In Zellerbach Hall. \$42. \$34. University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

EMPHYREAN ENSEMBLE — Concerto Night, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Guest artists: Jiebing Chen, erhu, and Beth Wiemann, clarinet. Presented by the University of California Davis Department of Music. \$14 to \$18. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-8542.

FLORIO STREET CONCERTS — "Bon Voyage," Feb. 17, 3 p.m. A program of works by Rameau, Mozart, R. Strauss and Williams. Free. 6389 Florio St., Oakland. (510) 601-9631.

FOUR SEASONS CONCERTS — Donna Roll, soprano, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. Guest artist: Thomas Enman, piano. A program of love songs and arias, including works by Massenet, Wagner, Beethoven, Brahms, Strauss and Sibelius. \$25 to \$35. Scottish Rite Auditorium, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. (510) 451-0775 or www.fourseasonsconcerts.com

MILLS COLLEGE — Fred Frith, Feb. 17, 4 p.m. Instrumental ensembles. Free. Concert Hall, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2296.

MUSIC SOURCES — "The Magical Charm of the Viola da Gamba in Historical and Contemporary Music," Feb. 16, 2 p.m. A lecture and demonstration by the Yukimi Kambe Consort. Free.

■ Yukimi Kambe Consort, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. A program titled "Buffet delle Quattro Viola da Gamba - Viol music from Japan and the West." At Parish Hall, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Curtis and Washington Streets, Albany. \$18 general; \$15 seniors and students. 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley. (510) 528-1685.

NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA — "Terry Riley and Bach," Feb. 21, 8 p.m. A program contrasting four works by J.S. Bach with improvisatory composition and performance by Riley. \$25 to \$30. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. (415) 392-4400 or www.ncco.org

SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY — "Fortune's Wheel," Feb. 23, 8 p.m. A program of rare Middle English songs, polyphony and dances. \$22 general; \$19 seniors. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 528-1725 or www.sfems.org

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Children's Hospital Oakland presents two free puppet shows at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Hall of Health, a health exhibit museum, 2230 Shattuck Ave. (lower level). The shows promote acceptance and understanding of physical, mental, medical and cultural differences. The Hall of Health is a hands-on health museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital. Admission is free. Hours: Tuesday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 549-9682.

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatricCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 549-9682.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Judie, 215-4371.

LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-799-8560 classes.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at ac-

tual University of California field research stations, and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 842-2275 or e-mail to: lshinfo@uqlink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 842-5134.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

The Berkeley Society of Friends offers a "Peace Witness," series in February between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on most Mondays at the Friends' Meeting house, 2151 Vine St., in Berkeley. Allan Solomonow and Ifekhar A. Hai, speak on "A Muslim-Jewish Response to Terror," Feb. 18 and Alan Senauke, formerly executive director of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship speaks on Feb. 25. The series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 843-9725.

The Richmond Museum of History presents "Rock A My Soul: A celebration of African-American Spirituals and Folktales," at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24. The program designed for the entire family, features Lettingby Boyce, gifted singer and storyteller, accompanied by pianist Jerry Donaldson. The museum is located at 549 Nevins Ave., at the corner of 4th Street, one block north of MacDonal Avenue. Hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Call 235-7387 for more information.

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northridge Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. For more information call Betty Coates at 235-0490. This chapter has moved from Richmond.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370.

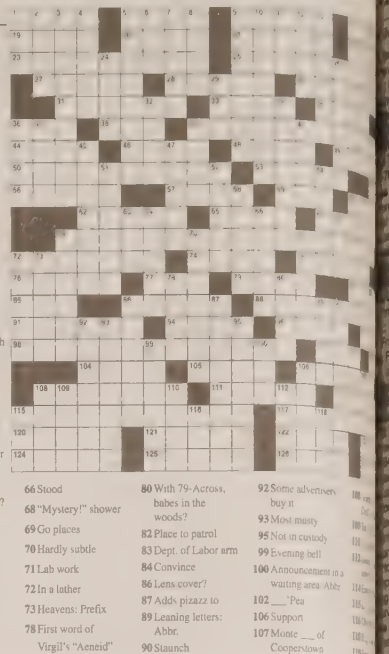
Marlon Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experiential practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6606.

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

IT'S IN THERE!

BY HARVEY ESTES & NANCY SALOMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 957 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 842-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northridge Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies": volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mon-

days; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief: 1-800-642-9355

SMART project: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

The Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC) features a retrospective show of the work of the late Jan Hart-Schuyers through March 13. The exhibit is part of "The Art for Living Black (TAOLB)," open studios for local African-American artists. Ms. Hart-Schuyers was the co-founder of TAOLB. WCRC gallery hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment, Saturdays. There is no charge for admission and the gallery is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 548-9286 ex. 307.

The Photolab Gallery, 2235 Fifth St., presents an exhibition of black and white

photographs by East Bay photographer Limor Inbar-Hansen through Feb. 16. Inbar-Hansen has been photographing since the early 1980s. She received the Eddie Adams Photographic Award in her first year at the New England School of Photography. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays. For more information, call 528-2141.

Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., continues its exhibit of "Ansel Adams from the University of California Collection," through March 10. The exhibition consists of a selection of photographs and memorabilia drawn from the extensive holdings of the UC Bancroft Library. For more information, call 643-6494.

The Richmond Museum of History continues exhibits highlighting Richmond's agricultural beginnings, industrial achievements, and hometown contributions during WWII. Special exhibits and events are held throughout the year. The museum is located in the historic 1910 Carnegie Library in the Old Downtown area at the corner of 4th Street and Nevins Ave. Call 235-7387 for more information or to arrange tours.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is

helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for exploring areas of clay, and instructions on requests. Admission: \$9.35 nonresident. Tassajara Pottery Center, 2450 El Cerrito Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530. Call 525-4151.

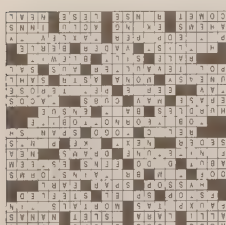
Alta Bates Medical Center by members of the California Association at the Contra Costa Gallery, 2450 Alameda Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530. Call 235-4444 for information.

New Pieces Gallery at Contra Costa Avenue, New Pieces, which shows outdoor sculptures and dolls, is open during store hours Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Details: 527-6778.

Literary Events

Cody's Books features the

See CALENDAR



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COSI' FAN TUTTI

Italy in the 1950s. Two young couples on holiday, find two worldly Venetians out to wise them up. A production by Feb. 22, Mar. 1 & 2, 8 p.m. Feb. 24 & Mar. 3, 7 p.m. Feb. 25, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. Julla Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave. Tickets: (925) 798-1300 (Community Bank)

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A concert for the community

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Conducted by Vance George, Director of the San Francisco Symphony

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra Pension Fund
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PAGE C6

on Natural Learning
a holistic understanding
movement, takes place from 10
11:30 a.m. at Berkeley Public Li-
Carmont Branch, 2940 Buena
The program describes each
a child's life, natural pauses
children. Registration is required.
201107 for more information
y Camera Club meets at 7:30
Tuesday evenings, at the North-
Community Church, 941 The
Berkeley. Share your slides
and learn what other pho-
does. Monthly field
for more information, call Don at
510.841.1111.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it

Pretty Tile, Ugly Grout

Grout Doctor of C
(610) 530-3104

The ninth annual Lenten Organ Recital Series, begins at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 featuring John R.S. Walko performing works of Boellmann and Widor. On Friday, Feb. 22, Jack D. Miller performs Bach, Brahms, Franck, Vierne, and Gerald Near. Free. The church is located at 2407 Dana St., Berkeley. Call

The contemporary classical group
Empyrean Ensemble presents "Concerto Night," at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. The Empyrean Ensemble consists of five of California's finest musicians performing new American and 20th Century works. The program includes Arnold Schoenberg's "Verklärte Nacht," String Sextet in D Minor; Yi-Hui Chang's "Amid Haze; Con-

Ashkenazi 317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave. \$4. Call 255-1542

Outdoors

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lelia 6555-3911

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointment.

See CALENDAR, Page C9

510-339-4055

Calendar
PAGE C7
...three to YWCA members.
...for additional information,
...for Anne Levine.
...Parks presents regular tours,
...a week. Week days 8:30
...Saturdays, and Sundays
...by appointment.
...for a schedule of up-
...classes call 925-820-1021.

Medical Center presents a free
...for family, friends caring
...from 4 p.m. to 5:30
...the third Wednesday of each
...The session takes place at the
...Campus, 2001 Dwight Way,
...room 3389B (take
...The group will focus on the
...of older adults with serious med-
...psychiatric illnesses,
...depression, dementia and/or
...abuse. For more information
...in a private consultation,
...Call 925-820-1021.

of recent tragedies both lo-
...across the nation can evoke
...in our thoughts and behavior.
...The group will focus on the
...help through its 24-hour cri-
...grief counseling, education and
...grief support programs. Call
...for more information.
...for Cancer class meets every
...from 11:30 to 12:45 p.m. at
...Comprehensive Cancer
...and long-term survivors.
...Call 925-820-1021 for directions and
...information.

...oga class meets on Thurs-
...from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in
...Seminar. Cost: \$10 per class.
...stretches and mindful
...help to ease tension and dis-
...and open the body to relaxation
...Call Janet, 925-820-1021, for
...and more information.
...of interest, a local support
...the east bay is being formed.
...will gather for healing discus-
...and various activities, includ-
...drawing, classic film watch-
...ing, or any fun activity.
...participants, call Attica Peece
...Call 925-820-1021 for a mes-

...and grief associated with the
...and loved one can often feel
...—especially during the
...many people suffer isolation.
...counseling project is here to
...be turned away for lack of
...Call 925-820-1021.

...Care Community" offers 8-
...support groups as
...therapy grief groups, and in-
...support. Call 640-0830 for addi-
...information.

...help group for Berkeley Na-
...Alta Sclerosis Society meets
...Call Toni at 653-4534 for in-
...formation.

...Medical Center Herrick Cam-
...guided relaxation and visu-
...people with cancer every
...4 p.m. at its Comprehen-
...Center, first floor Confer-
...Room 2001 Dwight Way. The
...this solution with an innov-
...approach to reducing stress and
...creating positive, life-affirm-
...Call 204-1811 for additional
...information.

...Medical Center, offers a Grief
...Class every third Saturday of
...from 10 a.m. to noon at ABMC
...Building, 2001 Dwight Way. The
...common and personal
...Admission: Fee: \$10. No one re-
...to inability to pay. For further
...contact 925-820-1021.

...Medical Center, 3001 Dwight
...offers support group classes for
...and their families and
...on the first Tuesday of the
...from 4-6 p.m. at the Herrick
...Alta Bates Medical Center.
...is an admission charge and ad-
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The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center Salon, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.balt.org.

The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to home-bound seniors. Call 644-8590.

The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothea Dorenz, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-healing methods. Bring a small pillow, and wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Lecture/Workshop

Ricky Time, a professional musician, will

give a multi-media presentation to the East Bay Heritage Quilters Guild on Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Admission: Members: free/Non-members: \$3.

UC Botanical Garden offers a free plant clinic from 9 a.m. to noon, first Saturday of every month at Strawberry Canyon, 200 Centennial Drive. For more information, call 643-2755.

Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center expanded its collection of contemporary fiction, nonfiction and children's books. Meet the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is open to the public. Hours: 11 and to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-Kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. To sign up call 268-4995.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are

held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.ccooe.k12.ca.us/rop.

"What is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragati Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information. Emotions Anonymous Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Theater, Dance & Film

Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YWCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2 and \$1 for kids. For more information, call 525-1130.

Family Folkdancing takes place on the third Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz

Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schuit Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Call 632-3713 for additional information.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast

swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For

See CALENDAR, Page C10

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HERE'S JUST A SAMPLE LISTING OF WHAT'S ON SALE THIS WEEKEND!

BRAND/MODEL	DESCRIPTION	ORIG.	SALE
COLOR TELEVISIONS			
RCA 13345B	refurbished 13" remote AC/DC color TV	\$299	\$97
RCA F25648	stereo 25" remote color TV w/ A/V inputs	\$299	\$167
RCA F27318	stereo 27" color TV with universal remote	\$349	\$197
Panasonic CT27D20	stereo 27" TV w/ universal remote	\$349	\$277
RCA F31317B	refurbished stereo 31" with A/V inputs	\$499	\$297
Panasonic CT27DC50	stereo 27" TV with DVD player	\$599	\$397
RCA F35317B	refurbished stereo 35" remote color TV	\$799	\$447
Panasonic CT27SX10	in-box stereo 27" flat-tube TV	\$599	\$499
Sony KV32FS12	stereo 32" WEGA color TV SCL only	\$999	\$547
Panasonic PVDF2000	20" flat-tube with DVD and VCR	\$799	\$577
Panasonic CT32SF36	32" flat-tube TV with 2-tuner PIP	\$999	\$597
Panasonic PVD2799	27" flat-tube with DVD and VCR	\$799	\$647
Proscan PS32800HR	digital 32" 4:3 HD-compatible	\$1499	\$697
Sony KV35S40	stereo 35" remote Trinitron color TV	\$999	\$747
Proscan PS32810	in-box digital 32" HD-compatible TV	\$1699	\$799
Sony KV36FS12	stereo 36" WEGA TV RWC only	\$1499	\$897
Proscan PS36800HR	digital 36" 4:3 HD-compatible	\$2499	\$997
Sony KV36XBR400	36" WEGA XBR with 2-tuner PIP	\$2199	\$1697
Proscan PS38000	38" 16:9 HDTV with sat receiver	\$3299	\$1997
AUDIO & VIDEO COMPONENTS			
Mitsubishi HSU575	Hi-Fi stereo VCR includes remote	\$169	\$77
Mitsubishi DD4001	DVD Player w/ comp video output	\$349	\$97
RCA RC6000P	progressive scan remote DVD Player	\$649	\$127
Sony DVPC600	5-disc CD/DVD changer with remote	\$499	\$167
Panasonic PVD4761	remote DVD/VCR combo deck	\$449	\$277
Sony STRDA333ES	A/V receiver with Dolby Digital	\$799	\$297
Denon AVR2801	A/V receiver with Dolby Digital	\$799	\$327
Sony DAVC700	new in-box complete home theater with DVD/CD player, receiver, 5 speakers & subwoofer	\$899	\$699
BIG SCREENS & HIGH DEFINITION TVS			
RCA P46920	stereo 46" features PIP and remote	\$1299	\$997
RCA P52930	stereo 52" features PIP and remote	\$1399	\$1097
Mitsubishi VS45605	new in-box stereo 45" with PIP	\$1499	\$1299
Mitsubishi WT46805	46" 16:9 HD-upgradeable TV	\$2199	\$1797
Mitsubishi WS55807	55" 16:9 HD-upgradeable TV	\$2999	\$2197
Mitsubishi WS65807	65" 16:9 HD-upgradeable TV	\$3499	\$2497
Sony KP65XBR10W	65" 16:9 HD-comp. RWC only	\$4999	\$2997

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Calendar

FROM PAGE C9

more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

Classes

Vista Community College offers classes in Adventure Travel, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through May 23. The course covers various kinds of adventure travel: hard adventure, soft adventure, and cultural/spiritual adventure. The curriculum includes adventure travel specialties such as biking, mountaineering, overland trips, safaris, rafting, hiking, small boat and expedition-style cruising, and more. For more information, call 981-2931.

Albany Adults School offers classes in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish this quarter. Most classes meet in the evening once a week for 10 weeks. A few are offered in the afternoon also. Meet at 601 San Gabriel Ave. in Albany, or across the street at the Albany Middle School. Average cost is \$48 plus books. Call the Adult School at 559-6580 for more information.

Folkdance classes, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple and clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (prorated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. For more information, call Mel Harte, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

Vista Community College, 2020 Militia St., offers its new Sunrise College this spring with classes in accounting, e-commerce, business, Java programming, English, ESL, statistics and Spanish for business professionals. Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information.

Assets Senior Employment offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Class starts soon. Call 238-3554 for more information.

The Albany YMCA offers after school classes for elementary and middle school age children. The YMCA offers sports and dance programs, gymnastics and Hip Hop and enrichment programs such as cooking, sewing and art.

Financial assistance always available. For more information, call 525-1130. **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, 2640 College Ave., offers a family-friendly program of classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For more information, including complete class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, see www.juliamorgan.org or call 845-8542 for a brochure.

The Berkeley Adult School (BAS) offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Call 644-6130 for additional information.

The South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. For additional information and class scheduling, call 883-5222. **Interview Clinics** sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Center at 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. The class is free to YWCA members. This technique is designed to help individuals understand themselves better. Call 848-6370 for additional information. Leave a message for Anne Levine.

The Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Peck, owner of an organic landscape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for non-members; \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.



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Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, February 15, 2002

Section D

Gender Gap: Big is better in Expedition Eddie Bauer [D4]



BOB HAGIN

Peckard motto
"Ask man
who owns one"

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Over the years, I've had lots of cars. Most of them were dull and poorly provided transportation while in retrospect, some of them were quite interesting. But their common denominator was that they didn't cost very much. One of them that very briefly passed through my hands was a 1946 Peckard Clipper. It was a well past its prime when it came into my possession. I had an ominous bearing rather than the engine so I passed it on to another buyer as quickly as possible.

Having spent my pubescent years in the early '40s, I was more of the larger, more stately cars of the decade before. The Peckard area of Oakland was filled with these carriage-trade vehicles with bulbous fenders, standard headlights and proper running boards. These were my early memories of the Peckard marque. Obviously, I was too young to know or realize that from a styling standpoint, those dignified Peckards were fading into the realm of old-fashioned, a styling stigma in the days of emerging streamlining sweeping lines.

Our country was still reeling from the Great Depression and middle-class buyers wanted modern

See HAGIN, Page D2



SUBARU

SUBARU gives the 2002 Forester a unique four-cylinder engine design with a lower center of gravity and an excellent suspension system. Because it is more car-like, it isn't as tall as other SUVs.

Subaru Forester S holds its own in a crowded SUV field

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

The Subaru Forester was introduced in 1998 and underwent a slight restyle last year.

And, while most mini-SUVs straddle the line between car and truck in terms of style and purpose, Forester is biased more toward the car side of the market.

Available as the entry-level L, up-level S and as our tester for the week, the S with the Premium Package, Forester is holding its own in a crowded field, many of which compete using price only.

Outside: Forester is purposely

built tall. More car-based than others in the mini-SUV category, it is easy to step inside because it's low to the ground, and the tall roof line gives lots of headroom.

More closely akin to the station wagon than it is to the SUV, Forester's two-box shape is enhanced with integrated fender bulges and a two-tone paint scheme, which is now offered in Graystone Metallic instead of Titanium Pearl paint.

The lower body cladding wraps the entire vehicle, and features a slightly ribbed set of curves about

TOM HAGIN
Solo Road Test

knee high.

The nose is relatively upright, trimmed in chrome and backed with a honeycomb pattern, while two oversize fog lamps are protected by brush guards.

Standard roof rails quickly accept the plethora of outdoor sports equipment carriers, while five-spoke alloy wheels are perfectly matched to Forester's overall appearance.

Inside: Because Forester is classified by Subaru as a passenger car, the first thing noticeable is the fact that there's no commanding view like that of a tall SUV. There is, however, a driver's side height adjuster that can elevate shorter drivers to a more advantageous position.

The gauges are easy to read and simple to use, although the steering wheel partially obscures some controls. Comfortable, supportive front bucket seats have built-in seat heaters on S models, and are covered in leather when the Premium Package is ordered.

A power moon roof, side-impact

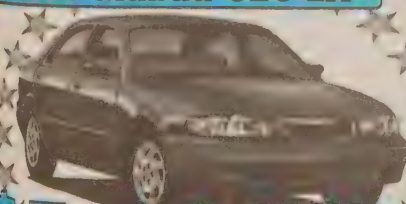
airbags and special wheels and paint are also part of the package, and we appreciated the auto-dimming rearview mirror, which is a stand-alone option.

Rear seating is fine for two across, and the ability to recline the rear seatback is a worthwhile feature. However, short rear doors make climbing into the rear seat a squeeze and rear seat knee room is tight for taller passengers.

See SOLO, Page D3

PRESIDENTS' DAY Sellabration

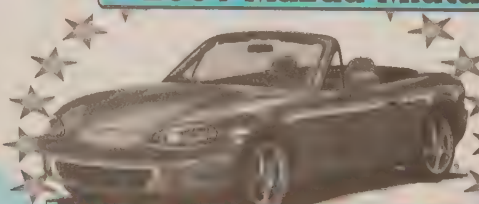
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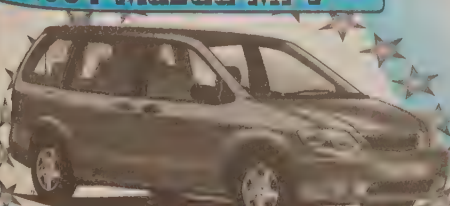
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Hagin

FROM PAGE D1

design that didn't hark back to the painful experiences of the late '20s.

The somewhat bizarre, but very streamlined Lincoln Zephyr was a hit with the public and the '40 LaSalle "Baby Cadillac" was a beautiful but doomed design.

Packard management saw the need for change, but unfortunately its answer to the competition, the Clipper, was just a few months too early to make its mark in the automotive world.

In early 1940, Packard management contacted Howard "Dutch" Darrin, an expatriate American auto designer, with an offer. The Packard vice president in charge of design told Darrin that his company would pay him \$1,000 a day if he could come up with an all-new, modern design that could immediately be pressed into production.

Darrin had returned to this country in 1937 after a successful career in France designing and building custom coachwork on expensive European rolling chassis and was eager for new commissions. He came up with a design within the prescribed 10-day limit.

Unfortunately, the Darrin design for the new production model Packard was not accepted, although the final design, put together by a team of Packard designers, bore an uncanny resemblance to the Darrin design.

The Clipper made its debut in April of 1941 as a '41 model and it was offered alongside models that carried more traditional Packard body work. It was a contemporary and totally different design, unlike any Packard ever made.

And while it wasn't in the same upper price range of the expensive Packard One Sixty heimo, neither was it a running mate to the relative

low-priced Six, a car that Packard had parenthetically used as a short-lived entry into the taxi business to bolster its sales numbers the year before.

The Clipper utilized the traditional Packard tall, arched grille work, but unlike its predecessors, the grille was very narrow, with thin horizontal bars. Its pontoon fenders blended into the body and swept back into the front doors. The windshield was sharply raked and the headlights were totally flaired into the front fenders.

Like the other mid-sized Packards, it carried a 4.6-liter straight-eight engine that was more concerned with smoothness than performance. As a new model, it sold very well during its shortened first sales year and the production of the 1942 version was well under way with bigger models.

They were offered with longer wheelbases and a gargantuan 5.8-liter straight-eight engine that was reputed to be capable of easily starting the car from a dead stop in high gear without a murmur.

But fate was unkind to the Packard Motor Company in general and its Clipper design in particular. It came out late in the year and at that time, the traditional model change-over time was October of the previous year. My dad was a true auto enthusiast and his idea of a good time was following the searchlights to the showing of the new Fords, Chevrolets, Buicks and the rest.

By the time April rolled around, the new car frenzy had died down, although the "all-new" Packard Clipper was a milestone event for the company. Tooling for the minor changes in the '42 version must have already been finished when the '41 was introduced in August of that year.

Three months later, the entire world changed direction on Dec. 7, 1941 when the American economy went to war. Packard produced and sold 20,000 of its new star before the lid was closed on auto production for civilians and only a limited number of Clippers were made for the military as



Packard Clipper represented design for the future, but it didn't last long after the war.

staff cars.

Four years later, the American auto industry girded itself for the pent-up need for new autos and old designs were well received simply because the cars themselves were new. Although the Clipper had only been around for a few short months before the war started, it was already dated when it went into Packard showrooms in October of 1945.

The version that followed in 1948 lacked the style and grace of the original.

The Clipper I owned was a post-war version (probably a '46) Model Six four-door sedan, the least expensive Packard available then. Unfortunately, I didn't appreciate it and since it suffered considerable rust-out, I'm sure it has long since been relegated to scrap metal along with the other neo-classics that passed through my hands.

But when I see one that's been restored at a concours or a classic car meet, I note that the driver always wears a smile. After all, the Packard motto was "Ask the Man Who Owns One."

Camaro has brake noise; Ford truck has slow braking

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Q I own a 1998 Chevrolet Camaro with a V-8 engine and an automatic transmission. I bought it second-hand from a used car lot that specializes in high performance sports cars.

It only had around 12,000 miles on it when I bought it and I was told that the former owner had sold it in order to get a Corvette.

I drive it a lot in my business and it now has almost 51,000 miles on it. It works fine and gets great mileage for a car of this type but it has one minor but annoying problem.

When I back up and step on the brakes, I hear a chirping noise.

I think it comes from the rear brakes but when I took it to my regular mechanic, he said that there was nothing wrong with either the front or back brakes.

I can live with the noise if I have to, but I'd like to get it eliminated.

P.O. Phoenix, Ariz.

JUNIOR DAMATO

Ask the Auto Doctor

A I've perused the Internet and found a reference to your problem. It also affects some Camaros up to 2000 and Pontiac Firebirds of the same years.

The problem is in the rear brake pads and it's apparently caused by friction material being incompatible with the brake rotor material.

General Motors says that just replacing the pads with its own modified pads will cure the problem, but I don't know if an aftermarket pad will cure it or not.

Although the GM information sheet doesn't mention it, I think it would be a good idea to have the rear brake rotors resurfaced at the same time.

Sometimes they develop a glaze that can make replacement pads squeak when they're applied at around-town speeds.

Q My 1995 Ford F-250 is used in my business and it gets a lot of stop-and-go driving around town. The brakes have never been what I consider great for a truck this size but I

don't drive it very much myself. It has always had a lot of brake pedal travel before the

See QNA, Page D

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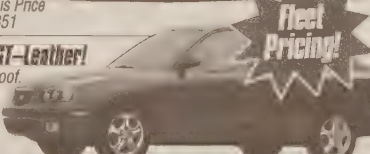
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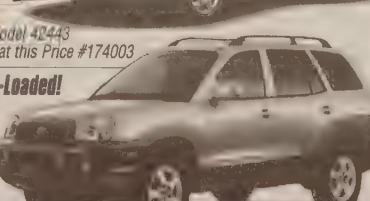
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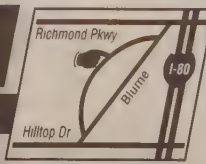
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FROM PAGE D1

take hold. Our mechanic assures that all the adjustments are correct.

A.B. Seattle, Wash.
Apparently Ford put an undersized brake master cylinder on some of its 2000 trucks.

The problem is that the internal size of the master cylinder is too small which requires a longer stroke on the pedal to fill the wheel brake cylinders and calipers with hydraulic brake fluid.

The repair is to replace the master cylinder with one that has a bigger bore but if you buy an aftermarket master cylinder, be sure it isn't internally identical to the one your mechanic is pulling out.

This question still comes into my mind a year after my wife passed away. How can I manage to blow up my Buick Skyline just backing it out of our driveway?

The engine caught on fire and exploded in the pavement. The car was just parked.

J.B. Sacramento, Calif.
We only come across a situation like yours once and it was about 25 years ago. One of my students had a '55 Chevrolet that he'd hopped up but he didn't understand what he was doing.

He hadn't tuned it out very well and it was subject to periodic backfires through the carburetor when he accelerated hard. It also suffered from a leaking fuel line that trickled gasoline into the engine's intake.

Eventually, the engine backfired into the intake through its funky restricted-orifice carburetor ventilation valve and the flames turned it contained below the oil pan on the asphalt and burned a hole

in the explosion blew off the valve covers and set fire to the area under the hood. It would take a detailed and exhaustive examination of your Buick to determine the cause of its explosion but it sounds a lot like the one I saw happen.

My 1997 Chevrolet Malibu LS four-door sedan has an automatic transmission, 172,000 miles on it. The car runs fine, maintains it well, having the oil and the timing changed every 3,000 miles.

It was recently being followed home by a laughter who was driving in another car and she noticed that one of my tail lights was flickering, staying on for most of the time but then going off for a minute. Then it would come on again.

I took it to our gas station and the mechanic said that he'd have to take the tail light out to check it. When he did, the tail light bulb tested OK. He cleaned it and the bulb, put it back together and said it would do it.

A month later I asked my daughter to take the car around the block to check it and she said that it was going on and off again. It could be wrong to make it act this way. The right one works fine.

L. Phoenix, Ariz.
I came across a bulletin that states that some Malibu and some Pontiac models some vintage have a problem with the light assemblies not being water-

proof. Your mechanic take it apart again to check for moisture.

The circuit board is warped, it has to be replaced. The moisture sometimes discolors the tail light lens and if this the case, it can be changed as well.

Origin writes for Pacheco Automotive Services in Concord, Calif. Write to him at: Pacheco Automotive, PO Box 5088, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Bob regrets he cannot answer all his mail.

alanche goes midsize for GMC

BY JIM MATEJA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — GMC confirms that it will introduce a midsize sport-utility truck in the next few years with all-new and unique features in this important segment.

That "exclusive midsize utility truck" with new and unique capabilities" will be the GMC rendition of the full-size Chevrolet Avalanche.

GMC and Chevy, with the help of Isuzu in developing the trucks, will get replacement for the current GMC Sonoma and Chevy S-10 (both expected to get new facelifts for the '04 model year).

The Avalanche treatment would then be applied to the new truck.

"Exclusive" as a because Chevy has the Avalanche, albeit as a full-size truck? Or because Chevy won't get a version of the GMC source said.

It is that after the GMC Sierra Denali wheel-steering this fall, next in line will be the full-size GMC Sierra Silverado extended-cab, short-wheelbase.

Use the full-size pickups provide the "for General Motors' full-size sport-utility vehicles, the SUVs also are in line for a treatment that makes a boat handle like a car, trucks get it first.

More trucks than SUVs, and GMC helps towing large trailers and heavy trucks often are used for.

It is counting on sales of 15,000 Chevrolet 4WS versions, and GMC expects another 25,000 regular GMC and Chevy trucks to be purchased with the system allows the truck to act as nimble.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

On the Road: Subaru is one of the few car makers that use a unique engine design for its vehicles.

The 2.5-liter four-cylinder under Forester's hood uses horizontally-opposed cylinders, which means they protrude from the sides of the engine core rather than straight upward or in a "Vee" like so many others. Subaru claims this gives the car a lower center of gravity.

Its 165 horsepower and 166 pound-feet of torque provides plenty of power to help Forester move out quickly. It wasn't long ago when vehicles in this class barely cracked the 100 horsepower threshold.

Mated to this engine was a four-speed automatic transmission and continuous all-wheel drive, which gave outstanding road-grip. Road tenacity is further enhanced by a limited-slip rear differential.

Behind the Wheel: This is where the Forester shines. MacPherson strut-type suspension is used both front and rear, while

special liquid-filled bushings are used up front in a strategic location to smooth vibrations.

Stabilizer bars are also used at both ends and along with grippy, oversized all-season tires, it handles confidently, even approaching sporty. Its low underbelly keeps it from venturing too far off the road, although on-road snow and ice is no problem.

No input is needed from the driver to engage the all-wheel drive system, and there's no penalty in fuel economy by using this system.

The rack-and-pinion steering system features an engine speed-sensitive variable-assist system that gives more road feel at highway speeds, yet makes turning the wheel easier while parking.

Braking is handled by four-wheel discs in the case of Forester S models, and an anti-lock braking system (ABS) is standard on all models.

Safety: Dual dashboard airbags, side-impact door beams, daytime running headlamps and ABS are standard.

Options: Auto-dimming inside rearview mirror with compass, \$183; center armrest

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Suggested Retail Price as Tested	\$23,695
Engine Type	SOHC 16-valve 2.5-liter H4 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	150 cid/2457cc
Horsepower	165 @ 5,600 rpm
Torque	166 @ 4,000 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	3,289 pounds
Fuel Capacity	15.9 gallons
Tires	(F/R) P215/60R16 all-season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/all-wheel-drive
Vehicle Type	Five-passenger/five-door
Mileage	City/highway 22/27

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

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Ford makes Expedition Eddie Bauer 4x4 a mighty big package

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Brendan: Ford Motor Company is one of many manufacturers that offers a plethora of SUVs to today's car-buying public.

BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN has a full lineup from Gender Gap

the entry-level Escape to the mammoth Excursion.

While the most commonly seen SUV from Ford is the mega-selling mid-line Explorer, the Expedition we tested this week is what I'd consider to be the most practical, at least for a family the size of ours.

Our tester was the Eddie Bauer edition, and it has all the stuff you would expect on a vehicle that starts at \$40,000. But it also has lots of extras as standard equipment.

Its Triton 5.4-liter single overhead cam V-8 engine has the beans to tackle a big hill with the cabin loaded with folks and when pushed, it makes a great high-speed tourer.

A four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive is standard on the Eddie Bauer four-by-four.

It has a maintenance-free battery with a battery saver feature and a 130 amp alternator, good for all those trips to the snow when all the accessories are on.

But a fill-up on its 30-gallon tank feeding its 12 city and 16 miles to the gallon highway can make for frequent stops for fuel.

Mikele: I thought the Expedition handled like a sports car or as close as possible for a large four-wheel drive machine.

The press packet says front and rear stabilizer bars coupled with the optional four-corner load-leveling suspension help the Expedition through the turns, and the 3.73 limited slip rear axle helps in those rough conditions of crawling through the underbrush or through creek beds.

Someday, I'll have to try some of that stuff with an SUV.

Inside, the Expedition Eddie Bauer has all the plush items that make the driver and passengers comfortable and gives them the modern conveniences that are expected in today's family vehicles.

Cloth seats are standard, but our truck had leather all the way around, with a manual driver lumbar support and height adjuster in the front and optional captains chairs in the second row.

The seats are heated, which is great for our recent cold spell, and the third row makes it possible to carry lots of kids to school band practice.

Other interior items include power windows with a one-touch feature on the driver's side, power mirrors and locks, tilt steering, air conditioning and illuminated entry.

The optional MACH audio system in the Eddie Bauer edition is powerful, with a six-disc CD changer and seven premium speakers, including a subwoofer with 300 watts of peak power.

That's enough watts to please even the most jaded teen-age "beat" conscience passengers.

Brendan: I bet mothers would be seen as superstars picking up the kids after school while blasting away with that kind of sound power.

Our pups loved all the room in the Expedition, with plenty of space for them to romp around. I would suggest getting one of those partitions that block dogs from getting up front, because it's safer for everyone.

Outside, the Expedition has the sleek contours Ford has developed for its recent SUVs, and our test Eddie Bauer had 17-inch Chrometec steel wheels for a cool street-style look.

With raised white letter P265/70R17 all-season tires mounted on them, it makes the Expedition appear almost muscle car-like.

Park a new Bullit Mustang next to it in your garage and you'd be the star of your neighborhood.

Mikele: The Expedition made me feel safe while driving it, and all the stuff that I read about it gave me even more assurance.

Second-generation driver and right front passenger airbags are standard, and side impact airbags are available, as long as it has the optional second row captain's chairs and reverse sensing system.

Manual three-point shoulder belts with pretensioners for all outboard passengers are standard, as well as four-wheel power disc brakes with four-wheel ABS.

It also has side door intrusion beams and child proof rear door locks to round out an ultra-safe cabin.

Brendan: Maybe if we're lucky Ford will give us one of these babies again so we can take it up skiing. I bet it would fit a few snowboards as well.

Mikele: If you snowboard like you used to skateboard, we're both in trouble.

FORD EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER

Suggested Retail	\$40,880
Price as Tested	\$49,215
Engine Type	SOHC 16-valve 5.4-liter V-8 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	330 cid/5409 cc
Horsepower	260 @ 4,500 rpm
Torque	350 @ 2,500 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	5,494 pounds
Fuel Capacity	30 gallons
Tires	(F/R) P265/70R17 all-season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/four-wheel-drive
Vehicle Type	Eight-passenger/five-door
Mileage	City/highway 12/16

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection



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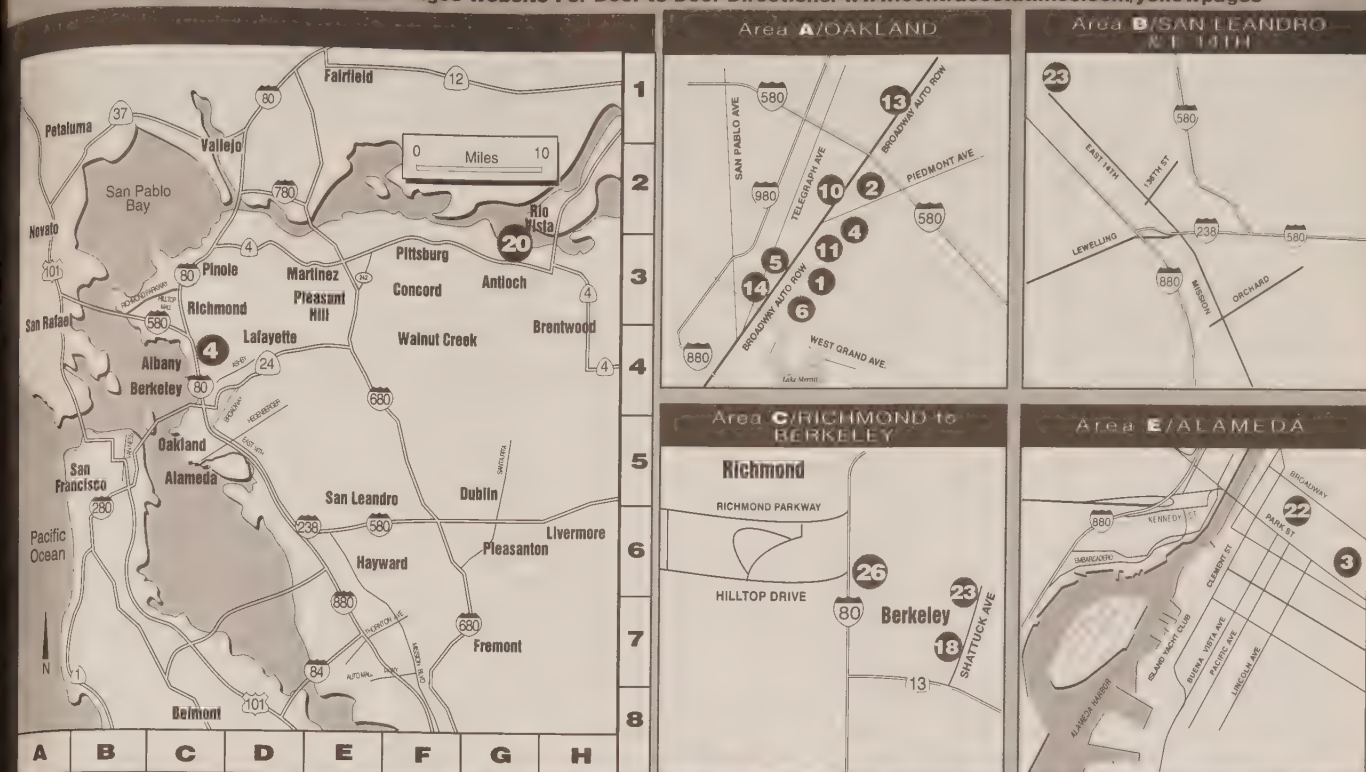
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Vietnamese Spring Rolls: A delicacy to ring in Chinese New Year

BY BEVERLY BUNDY

With little respect for the cold depths of the frozen case, next to the pizza nuggets, egg rolls around uninspiringly in a cardboard box. At home, the egg rolls will linger inside the freezer until some put-upon, hungry individual spies it, and a couple of egg rolls onto a plate and shovels it into the

mouth. A frozen egg roll does not have the respect for its kind. The real thing, with a glistening outer shell glistening with a look-alike reheated, and a distant one at the outer skin is tough, the inner skin is soft and the only difference from the hot mustard is the side. If you remember the hot mustard.

In the hands of a chef who has been food with deserved respect, egg rolls and their thinner cousins, spring rolls, are a culinary beauty. A bite of a crisp rice wrapper, the crunch of fresh bean sprouts and a splash of fiery chili sauce can be a jaded palate.

They are not an "at home" dish. They are labor-intensive and the oil used for frying is a reminder of the past. And because few people refrigerate, it's not a dish that can be made ahead and held over for holidays or restaurants, these little jewels are

not meant to be eaten. They want to know how to make them, and a group is gathering for an egg roll-making party. Terrell is our guide today — through this Asian class — an ideal teacher because he returned from Vietnam, he witnessed preparations for the weeks-long New Year

celebration. He is the director of the Center for Vietnamese Cooking School. He has been cooking with egg rolls as long as he can remember in Longview.

"The restaurant was called Hunan," Terrell says, "and if I'm remembering right, it had pretty good food."

Good enough food that when Terrell was studying finance at the University of Houston, he wangled as many invitations as possible to his Asian roommate's home. He cooked for his college friends, teaching himself Asian techniques from Betty Crocker versions of Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese cookbooks.

After college, he slung the Brazilian equivalent of hash at a breakfast joint in New York City to put food on his own table. A conversation with the guy who ran the restaurant next door, Bobby Flay ("he was a really nice guy, and he still remembers me whenever I run into him today"), persuaded Terrell to enroll at the Culinary Institute of America.

The CIA is the recognized leader in American cooking schools, but it is grounded in classic French technique. Moo shu pork and thousand-year-old eggs hardly get heavy syllabus time. But Terrell's fascination with Asian food continued, and he eventually made his way to San Francisco, the best place in America to learn Asian cooking, before moving to Dallas.

For today's egg roll extravaganza, Terrell is specific about the shopping list.

"The fish sauce — buy the three-crab brand," he says. "Buy the lighter rice wrappers; they work better."

The specificity of his directions eventually makes sense.

"Fish sauce is like olive oil," Terrell says. "There are different qualities, and the first 'pressing' is the best — it's less salty, it's not so fishy — it's the sauce that should be in the dipping sauce and on the table. Cook with the other stuff. A lot of these little restaurants can't afford to put the better stuff on the table, so people who have had fish sauce once at these places think they hate it." (In Vietnamese markets, a large bottle of the best fish sauce is no more than \$4.)

Terrell says to buy the thinnest wrappers possible. To determine which is the finest, simply use your hands as a scale. Although the packages will read the same weight, the finer package will feel lighter because there's more air between the sheets.

Those of us attending this egg roll gathering are very proud of ourselves, making spring rolls from scratch, transferring the wrappers from their cellophane containers to boiling water to render them pliable, then covering them with a towel. We're proud until Terrell tells us what he witnessed in Vietnam the week before.

"We saw women out in the country with what looked like about 20 screen doors, and they were rolling out and putting the rice wrappers on those to dry," he says. "Getting ready for Tet, probably."

RICE PAPER-WRAPPED SALAD ROLLS

12 medium raw shrimp, with shells (21 to 30 count per pound is the best size)

1 cup fresh bean sprouts
1/2 cup fresh mint leaves
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
1/2 cup shredded carrot
8 (12-inch round) rice papers, with a few spares for emergencies
3 ounces rice vermicelli cooked in boiling water 4 to 5 minutes, rinsed and drained (these noodles will be labeled "bun" in Vietnamese markets and on restaurant menus)

For serving:
1 small head red-leaf lettuce, leaves separated and washed
Accompaniments:
Hoisin-peanut sauce (recipe follows)

1/4 cup chopped roasted peanuts, for garnish

Cook shrimp in boiling salted water until just done, about 3 minutes. Shell, devein and cut in half lengthwise. Refresh in cold water and set aside.

Combine bean sprouts, mint leaves, cilantro and shredded carrot into a "salad."



VIETNAMESE SPRING ROLLS, both fried (foreground) and fresh (background) are best eaten fresh. They are served with dipping sauces for added flavor.

See ROLL, Page 2

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Scrumptious scones: A terrific treat that's tempting with tea

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The sweet biscuit Americans know as a scone probably bears little resemblance to the original, but this popular treat is delicious plain or fancy, with tea or on its own.

Scones can be flavored with fruit-lemon or orange, cherries, raisins, apricots and apples-to chocolate, cinnamon, coffee, coconut or ginger, from nuts and seeds to maple and even savory cheese and vegetables.

If you take tea with your scone, you can bake scones to complement a favorite tea. For example, Sue Gray, director of product development at King Arthur Flour, suggests adding dried peaches and nutmeg as a complement to Ginger Peach Tea.

The following is a basic scone recipe with variations of different dried fruits and spices.

SCRUMPTIOUS SCONES

3 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup buttermilk powder
3/4 tsp. salt
1 tablespoon baking powder
3/4 cup currants, raisins, apricots or other dried fruit
2 eggs
2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup milk, buttermilk or water

1/2 cup cold butter, or a combination of shortening and butter
1 egg beaten with 1 teaspoon water

coarse sugar or cinnamon-sugar, for topping

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together all of the dry ingredients, including the fruit. In a separate bowl, whisk together 2 eggs, vanilla and milk, buttermilk or water.

The next step, cutting in the fat, is important because this largely determines the texture of the scones. Use a combination of butter and shortening: butter for its flavor, shortening for its superior ability to create the flaky effect. Begin with cold fat, as cold fat retains its integrity in the dough better than warm. Use a pastry blender or fork to work the fat into the flour.

Next, add the liquid ingredients to the flour/fat mixture. Too much mixing or kneading at this point will result in tough, heavy scones. Gently fold everything together until the mixture is mostly moistened; a bit of the flour may remain dry.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface, and fold and gather it together until it's cohesive. Divide the dough in half, and place both halves on a lightly greased or parchment-lined baking sheet. Pat each half into a 7-inch circle approximately 1/2-inch thick, then cut each circle into 8 wedges. Separate the wedges slightly. Or you may pat the entire piece of dough into a rectangle and cut it into squares or 1 1/2- to 2-inch rounds, using a biscuit cutter.

Brush the scones with the beaten egg, sprinkle with coarse sugar or cinnamon sugar, if desired. Bake in a preheated 450 degree F oven for 7 minutes, then turn the oven off and, without opening the door, let the scones remain in the oven for an additional 8 to 10 minutes, or until they're golden brown. Remove from the oven, and cool on a wire rack.

Serve the scones immediately or within a few hours, for best flavor. Yield: 16 scones.

Variations

- **Cranberry-Orange Scones:** Use cranberries as the added fruit, add 2 tablespoon grated orange zest or 1/2 teaspoon orange oil to the dough, and use orange juice for the liquid.
- **Lemon-Poppy Seed Scones:** Add 3 tablespoon poppy seeds and 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon lemon oil, or 2 tablespoon grated lemon zest, to the dough.
- **Cherry-Almond Scones:** Sub-

stitute 2 teaspoon almond extract (or 1/4 teaspoon bitter almond oil) for the vanilla, and add 1/2 cup dried sweet or sour cherries to the dough.

- **Ginger-Chocolate Chip Scones:** Add 1/4 cup finely diced crystallized ginger, and 1 teaspoon ground ginger or 1 teaspoon fresh crushed ginger to the dough, along with 1/2 cup chocolate chips.
- **Cinnamon-Pecan Scones:** Add 3/4 cup chopped, toasted pecans to the dough, and substitute 2 tsp. ground cinnamon for the vanilla.

For more information, other great recipes or to order the flour, call 800-827-6836 or visit www.kingarthurflour.com.



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Rolls

FROM PAGE 1

Just before assembling rolls, set up a salad roll "station." Fill a large mixing bowl with hot water. If necessary, keep some boiling water handy to add to the bowl if the temperature drops below 110 degrees. Choose an open area on the counter and arrange the items in the order used; the rice paper sheets, the hot water, a damp clean dish towel, and a platter holding the drained noodles, the "salad" and the shrimp.

Working with one rice paper sheet at a time, dip 1 sheet, edge first, in the hot water and turn it to wet completely, about 10 seconds. Lay the sheet down on the clean dish towel, making sure it's not wrinkled or bunched. Top with a second dish towel and allow to sit covered for a couple of minutes. You can't leave the wrappers too long, but you can try to work with them too quickly — you'll be able to tell if any of the edges are still crisp when you try to work the wrapper. This isn't difficult, and you will get the hang of it after a couple of tries. Actually, it's much like dealing with soft contact lenses — you can even "lose" the wet rice paper on the towel because it becomes clear when wet.

Remove the top dish towel. On the bottom third of the rice sheet, the end closest to you, spread about 2 tablespoons of the cooked noodles. Cover with an equal amount of salad. Roll this stuffing up with only one turn forward. Then, lay 2 or 3 of the shrimp halves, in a line, on the part of the roll closest to the remaining flat rice paper. Tuck in the two sides of the rice paper so you've now got a cylinder. Roll the paper closed. If the roll is uneven, place your hand on the roll as if you were rolling a pencil on a table, and roll it a couple of times to distribute the filling. The finished rolls should be about 1 1/2 inches wide by 5 inches long.

Rolls can be made a few hours in advance and stored at room temperature in an airtight container lined with a damp but not wet paper towel. Don't refrigerate, or the rice paper will become tough.

To serve, cut each roll into halves or quarters (cutting on the diagonal is the most attractive). Serve with lettuce leaves, which are traditionally eaten cupping the spring roll. Serve with hoisin-peanut sauce topped with chopped peanuts and chile paste.

Serves 6-8.

Hoisin-peanut sauce:
Yields 2 cups
1 1/4 cups hoisin sauce
3/4 cup chile sauce (sambal oelek — also called "rooster sauce" for the rooster on the label)
1 tablespoon chopped roasted peanuts for garnish

Combine hoisin sauce and chile sauce and garnish with the peanuts.

Adapted from "The Best of Vietnamese and Thai Cooking" by Mai Pham (Prima, \$19.95)

FRIED SPRING ROLLS
1 ounce cellophane noodles or bean threads (they're made with

mung bean flour)
4 ounces lean ground beef
4 ounce canned crab meat, picked over
4 shallots, minced
4 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 medium onion, minced
1 cup fresh bean sprouts
2 tablespoons "nuoc mam" or "nam pla" (Vietnamese or Thai fish sauce)
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 egg

Soak noodles in warm water for 30 minutes. Drain, then cut into 1-inch lengths. Combine noodles with all the remaining filling ingredients and using your hands, blend together well.

Assembly and frying:
24 (8 1/2 inches each) rice paper rounds
Canola or peanut oil

Following the instructions in the previous recipe (omitting the shrimp step), assemble all the spring rolls, making sure that the skins are tight and the rolls are of a relatively uniform size.

Heat oil, at a depth of 1 to 1 1/2 inches, to 325 degrees. Cook only a few rolls at a time so the oil temperature stays constant and there's enough room for the oil to circulate and all sides of the rolls to cook.

Cook until crisp and golden. Drain on paper towels. Keep warm in a low oven while frying remaining rolls. Serve with the following dipping sauce and herbs.

These rolls should be eaten immediately, as the skins become both tough and soggy after they cool.

Yields 24 rolls

Accompaniments:
Fish sauce with shredded carrots, recipe follows
1 bunch mint, chopped, for garnish
1 bunch cilantro, chopped, for garnish

Fish sauce:
1 small chile (typically a Thai bird chile), chopped fine and seeded
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1/4 cup vinegar
2 small crushed garlic cloves
1/4 cup fish sauce
Grated or thinly sliced carrot
Combine first 6 ingredients. Float pieces of carrot in sauce.

Adapted from "The Best of Nicole Routhier" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$22.50)

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cook Supersweet Corn:

per sauce. Brush over hot corn.
Yield: 1/4 cup

HERBED BUTTER

4 tablespoons butter, margarine
or olive oil
2 teaspoons minced green
onion (scallion)
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano or
basil, crushed
4 ears Supersweet Corn, cooked
In a small saucepan, heat but-
ter or margarine until bubbly. Stir in
green onion and herbs; cook and
stir for 10 seconds. Brush over hot
corn.

Yield: 1/4 cup



COOKING FRESH Supersweet
Corn on the cob takes just a few
minutes.

1/2 cup olive oil or melted but-
ter
1/2 cup grated Parmesan
1/2 cup dried Italian sea-
salt
4 ears Supersweet Corn, cooked
In a small bowl, combine olive
oil, Parmesan, Italian seasoning and
brush over hot corn.
Yield: 1/4 cup

CILANTRO-LIME BUTTER

for fresh corn
1/2 cup butter, melted
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
2 tablespoons lime juice
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 ears Supersweet Corn, cooked
In a small bowl, combine butter,
cilantro, lime juice, salt and hot pep-

per sauce.

Yield: 1/4 cup

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Revelation 21:4

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LOS ANGELES TIMES
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2. "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution" by Robert C. Atkins
3. "Lidia's Italian-American Kitchen" by Lidia Bastianich
4. "Weight Watchers New Complete Cookbook"

5. "Weight Watchers Simply the Best: 250 Prizewinning Family Recipes"
6. "Make It In Minutes: Easy Recipes in 15, 20 and 30 Minutes" by Weight Watchers
7. "Kitchen Confidential" by Anthony Bourdain

8. "Salt: A World History" by Mark Kurlansky
9. "Fix-It and Forget-It Cookbook" by Dawn J. Ranck, Phyllis Pellman Good and Cheryl Berne
10. "How to Be a Domestic Goddess: Baking and the Art of Cooking" by Nigella Lawson

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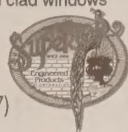
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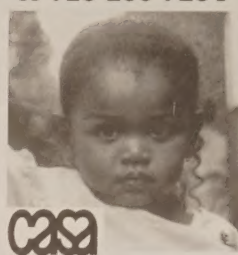


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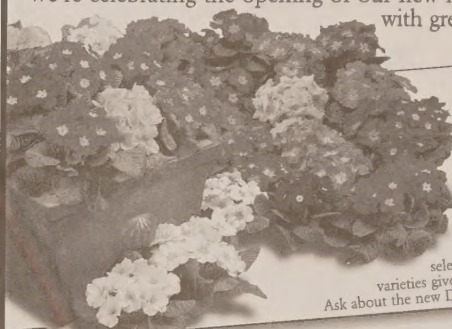
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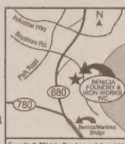
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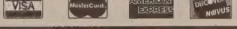
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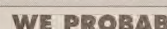
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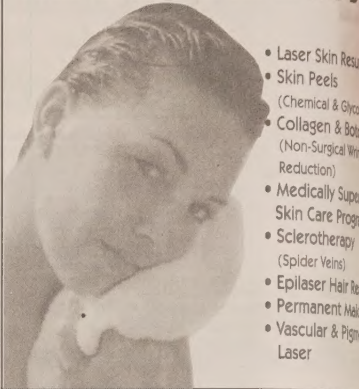
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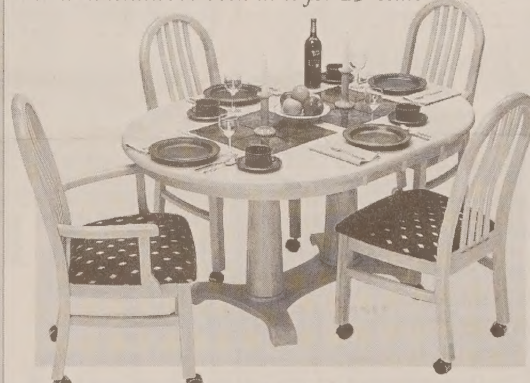
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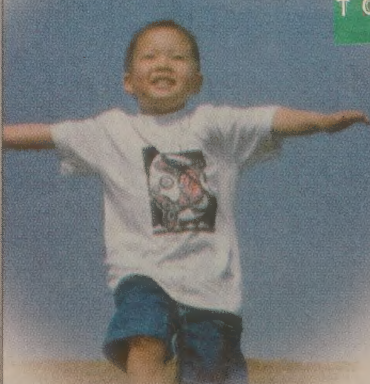
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